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Pakistan

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in an address to the nation broadcast on Islamabad radio, nominated Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto as prime minister.

The president lifted the state of emergency and dissolved the emergency council formed after the death of former President Ziaul Haq. He also dissolved the caretaker cabinet.

Afghanistan

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement protesting an attack on a UN relief convoy by opposition forces who were receiving orders from Peshawar, Kabul radio reported. The Foreign Ministry called the incident an open violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords.

TASS reported that the mujahidin recaptured the border post of Towr Kham, alleging that the resistance was supported by nearly 2,000 Pakistani troops. The report also said a U.S. adviser was killed by government forces in Jalalabad.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the resistance alliance, left Islamabad for Saudi Arabia for talks with Soviet officials to begin 3 December, AFP reported. The Soviet delegation to the talks will be led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov.

Iran

Implementation of UN Resolution—President 'Ali Khamene'i told a group of ulema that Iraq is hindering full enforcement of UN Resolution 598 out of fear of Article 6, which he said will find Iraq the aggressor in the war and require the payment of "billions of dollars in war reparations" to Iran, IRNA reported.

Foreign Financial Assistance—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran is considering ways of using foreign exchange reserves to finance internal growth projects, either through long-term credits or "on buy-back." He made the remarks at a news conference broadcast on Tehran television. He added that agreements similar to the one on credits from West Germany could be made with other countries.

Israel

The Alignment and Agudat Yisra'el signed an agreement to form a joint coalition, Jerusalem radio reported. The agreement gives Agudat Yisra'el two portfolios and stipulates that the Labor Party must impose a compulsory unanimous vote supporting the amendment to the Law of Return. The radio later reported that the Agudat Yisra'el Central Committee refused to ratify the agreement, but Labor leader Shim'on Peres insisted that the agreement still holds.

Unrest in the territories continued, with one youth killed and four wounded in the West Bank, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports.

Lebanon

A "powerful" car bomb exploded in West Beirut early 2 December, injuring three people and causing extensive property damage, the Voice of National Resistance radio reported.

Syria

According to "well-informed sources," President Hafiz al-Asad is planning sweeping changes in the government, the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH reported. The changes will include naming Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi as new prime minister and reducing the number of vice presidents from three to one.

In addition, Al-Asad will take over Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's responsibility for the Lebanese portfolio. The sources revealed that Al-Asad wishes to remedy the current state of political affairs that has distanced Syria from the rest of the Arab region by reconciling with Egypt and recognizing the Palestinian state.

The Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN disclosed that high-level talks have taken place between Syria and Egypt to discuss resumption of relations and Egypt's return to the Arab League. According to the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD, Jordan's King Husayn's is mediating between the two countries in an attempt to bring about a summit between Al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf on U.S. Entry Visa Decision

JN0112190888 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
30 Nov 88 pp 1, 23

[By Ahmad al-Shammari]

[Excerpt] Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, Fatah Movement Central Committee member, has called on the Arab states to withdraw their ambassadors from the United States during the remaining period of President Reagan's term in reply to the U.S. stand toward the Palestine question—the stand which has taken the form of preventing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from entering U.S. territory to deliver Palestine's speech during the meetings of the UN General Assembly.

Salah Khalaf challenged the Arab regimes to do this and said the United States would not have been able to take such a blatantly hostile stand toward the Arab nation and its central issue, the Palestinian issue, had it not been certain beforehand that the Arab stands would be content with voicing condemnation, denunciation, and indignation.

In a mammoth speech rally held at the PLO bureau in Hawli yesterday evening on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, Abu Iyad said if the United States had known there was an Arab nation which would move and pose threats to its interests, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would not have dared to deny Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa with a stroke of a pen.

He added: Humiliation becomes easy and tolerable to one who has become addicted to humiliation. We have allowed ourselves to be humiliatingly challenged by the United States more than once and in more than one place. We will witness more of this challenge to our conscience, honor, and pan-Arab dignity.

Abu Iyad wondered: What have we done to deter the U.S.- Zionist challenge? Have the Arab foreign ministers met? Have we heard an Arab voice calling for the withdrawal of Arab ambassadors from the United States?

Palestine is an Arab territory and will remain Arab despite the fierceness of the onslaught. It is the symbol of a protracted and arduous struggle that has been going on throughout time.

Khalaf added: The Palestinian revolution has made way for itself through blood; yet, the Palestinian people have continued to suffer from long homelessness, neglect, and loss of identity.

They have also been suffering from the injustice caused by kinfolk, the jails of some Arab regimes, and the butchers of their intelligence organs who are fighting the Palestinian individual simply because he seeks to be martyred for the sake of preserving and regaining his land.

Abu Iyad went on to say: Fierce battles on which millions of dollars are being spent are taking place among the Arab regimes. Too much blood is being spilled only to see one regime triumph over another. As for pan-Arab issues, they are neglected and left unheeded. It is an arduous struggle, not against the enemy, but against kinsmen.

Many daggers stabbed the revolution in the back. We used to remain patient, as we knew the Arab people who have nothing to do with the rulers stand alongside us.

Salah Khalaf called for the introduction of further democracy in the Arab homeland, as it is the only way to create an Arab generation with an affinity for the course of struggle, militancy, and the liberation of Palestine.

Abu Iyad said the best thing achieved by the revolution is the gigantic uprising and the national unity which has prompted all Palestinian people to reject the occupation despite the thousands of martyrs and wounded offered on the road to liberation.

Salah Khalaf painfully and regrettably wondered: What support have we offered to the uprising despite the passing of 1 year since its eruption? The uprising Algiers summit allocated $43 million as a monthly support for the uprising, $126 million as a form of continuous support, and $26 million as urgent support.

Since that time, we have not received one fil. Besides, the popular committees formed in Kuwait to support the uprising have collected $19 million, $0.25 million of which has been accounted for. Where has the rest of the money gone? This is a shameful thing that must not be allowed to happen. These funds must reach those who deserve to receive them.

Who is responsible for plundering these funds? The uprising needs support and assistance and we will not absolve the rich Arab states of this failure to provide this support and assistance.

Abu Iyad attributed the divisions within the Palestinian ranks to the status of fragmentation plaguing the Arab arena and denied the accusations leveled at the PLO that it squanders its funds. He affirmed the PLO monthly pays $4.5 million to martyrs' families and $3.5 million to the families of those detained in the jails of the Zionist enemy.

He said official Arab assistance to the PLO has been nonexistent for 1 year and that this is a test for the revolution, for its democracy, and for its firmness and solidity.

Abu Iyad paid tribute to the independence document that was unanimously signed at the recent PNC session—the document that affirmed the declaration of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Salah Khalaf leveled scathing criticism against some Palestinian intelligentsia and university professors who criticized the independent state declaration and described it as a paper state of capitulation. He said the one who criticizes the independent state declaration does not want to see Palestine liberated.

He added: The status of homelessness and destitution on the sidewalks of Arab capitals should be terminated. He affirmed that the United States would not have refused to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa had there been any form of capitulation.

Khalaf asserted: We are pursuing peace. At the same time, we are carrying the rifle to preserve peace. There can be no solution in the Middle East unless the independence declaration is recognized and the Palestinian state is established.

He also called on the Arab states to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy and to end the ongoing strife there which has been going on for a long time. He said the recent U.S. decision is the first drop of rain which will follow. [passage omitted]

JORDAN TIMES Publishes Abu Sharif 'Message'

JN3011111088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 88 p 5

[Article by Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, published in the London-based MID-EAST MIRROR on 28 November entitled "A Message from the PLO: Give Peace a Visa"]

[Text] Some five months ago, I wrote a position paper that attracted some attention in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The paper said, in essence, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation wants peace and security for the Palestinians and the Israelis alike, "because no people deserves less and because no one can build his own future on the ruins of another's."

It proposed immediate talks between the PLO and Israel in the context of an international conference on the Middle East, toward a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem that would finally bring peace to all the states of the region, including Palestine and Israel.

The paper was complimented as an apparently sincere expression of one Palestinian's acceptance of Israel and his desire to coexist with it, and it was dismissed as unimportant for the same reason: that it was the "unauthoritative" position of one man who had neither the mandate to represent the PLO nor the power to sway it.

On November 15, what I said in the article was stated in greater detail by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's highest authority.

But the declarations of the PNC, authoritative as they are, and applauded though they were by most countries, including the twelve members of the European Community, were rejected as an act of war by Israel and shrugged off as inadequate by the U.S. administration.

This U.S. administration went one step further: On November 26, 12 days after the PNC waved the olive branch, the American State Department announced that it was denying the chairman of the PLO, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, permission to visit the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, to which he had been invited by the international community.

If the U.S. Secretary of State thought that by taking this decision he was undermining the position of the PLO, I believe he will discover in the not too distant future that he has done no such thing.

His decision, however, has not been totally ineffectual.

It has succeeded in giving credibility to the charges that have been made against the Reagan administration since it became clear that, for all its statements to the contrary, it was supporting, aiding and abetting Israel in its policy of terror against the men, women and children of the Palestinian people—including the charge that this administration is teetering on the brink of moral bankruptcy, and that its key decision-makers, not excluding Mr. Shultz, are more susceptible to the pressures exerted by Israel and the American minority that support its atrocities than befits a superpower of America's stature.

It has also succeeded in outraging the international community and increasing global doubts about the wisdom of trusting a government so blatantly biased with the keys to the gates of the United Nations Headquarters.

And it has substantiated the objections of many in the PLO who have long held that no matter how earnestly we offer Israel peace, Israel will offer us nothing but war; and that no matter how far we go to demonstrate our peaceful intentions, the Reagan administration will demonstrate nothing but contempt for the Palestinians and their rights; because what Israel and the Reagan administration want is not an opening to peace but an opening to a peace that excludes the PLO and therefore a peace the rules out the Palestinian national rights for which the PLO stands.

I confess that view seems more valid to me today than it did a few weeks ago, but since neither I nor the majority of my colleagues are anxious to trade the peace pipe in just yet, I still cling to one shred of hope: that Mr. Shultz and the Reagan administation is speaking for itself and not for the American people or for Mr. Baker and the Bush administration. It is on that assumption, and in response to the various doubts that have been voiced about PLO's new policy that I offer the following clarification to anyone who cares to listen:

It has been said that the Palestinian Declaration of Independence is unacceptable because it is a unilateral act that was not arrived at through negotiations.

We believe that act was multilateral. The entire world gave the Palestinian people the right to independence and sovereignty on three separate occasions: in 1919, when the League of Nations passed Article 22 of its Charter; in 1923, when the great powers signed the Treaty of Lausanne; and in 1947, when the U.N. adopted Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine into a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

Those who disagree with us argue that those three documents, all signed by the U.S have been overtaken by events. Our view is that such arguments undermine the credibility of the great powers and promote the cynical notion that justice is a perishable product—and that view seems to be shared by the 60-odd states that have recognised the Palestinian state so far.

But that is our view, and we are not demanding that it be accepted as a precondition to our participation in the peace talks, nor are we prepared to accept a demand that we relinquish it as a precondition to such participation.

It has been said that acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 was "cancelled out" by our simultaneous invocation of other U.N. resolutions, which, our critics say, cast doubt on the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

Our critics have probably not read the pertinent PNC decision carefully. It states that the international peace conference should "be held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the safeguarding of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination... in accordance with the U.N. resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue".

We have always had reservations about Resolution 242 because it makes no provisions for the Palestinians' national rights, referring to the Palestinian issue only as a refugee problem. We accepted the resolution nevertheless, but only as one of two cornerstones for the international conference, the other cornerstone being the national rights of the Palestinians.

As clearly indicated in the text, the U.N. resolutions referred to are the resolutions that pertain to those rights and not the resolutions that "cast doubt on the legitimacy of Israel."

Those who ask us to accept Resolution 242 as it stands, with no ands, ifs and buts, are asking us to relinquish our rights as a precondition to the initiation of negotiations aimed at the recovery of our rights. That is patently illogical and unacceptable. If the proposed negotiations are intended to legitimise our present disfranchisement, we agree with our critics that we do not qualify as reliable participants.

It has been said that the PNC renounced terrorism twice. It renounced it once in the Declaration of Independence when it said that "the State of Palestine declares its belief in the settlement of international and regional disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations; and its rejection of threats of force or violence or terrorism and the use of these against its territorial integrity and political independence or the territorial integrity of any other state."

It renounced it again in the political statement that accompanied the Declaration of Independence, in which it was stated that the PNC "once more announces its rejection of terrorism, emphasising its commitment to the resolutions it adopted in the past on this subject, and to the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers in 1988, and to U.N. Resolutions 42/159 of 1967 and 61/40 of 1985, and to what was stated in this regard in the Cairo Declaration of Nov. 7, 1985."

Normally, that would be clear enough. Normally, the PNC would not need to add that the Palestinians, while renouncing terrorism, reserve the right to protect themselves from terrorism. But these are not normal circumstances.

The Israelis have somehow convinced many in the U.S. and elsewhere that when an Israeli soldier kills a Palestinian, expropriates Palestinian land and water, burns Palestinian crops, demolishes Palestinian houses, breaks Palestinian bones and generally makes a Palestinian's life intolerable, he is engaging in legitimate self-defence, but that when a Palestinian boy throws a stone at that soldier, he is engaging in terrorism.

The PNC thus felt compelled to add that, while renouncing all forms of violence and terrorism the Palestinian people reserved the right, as granted by U.N. resolutions, to "resist foreign occupation" and "defend its territory and independence."

If resistance of foreign occupation and defence of territory and independence are now defined as terrorism in the U.S. and Israel, the American and Jewish dictionaries must have been revised sicne World War II, when they defined such activities as a basic right and the people who engaged in them as heroes.

Having said this, let me add that the Palestinians are prepared to stop all forms of resistance to Israeli occupation in advance of any negotiations if Israel is prepared to end all forms of occupation in advance of any negotiations.

It has been said that the PNC did not explicitly recognise Israel.

The PNC did not explicity recognise Israel only if U.N. Resolution 181 of 1947 and Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 did not explicitly recognise Israel's right to exist.

Resolution 181, which called for the partition of Palestine into one Arab state and one Jewish state, is the legal foundation of Israel. By explicitly recognising it and adopting it as the legal foundation of the State of Palestine, the PNC has explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist.

Resolution 242 affirmed, among other things, the right of all states in the Middle East, including Israel, to live in peace within secure borders. By explicitly accepting it and endorsing it as one of the bases on which an international Middle East peace conference should be convened, the PNC has explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist.

Why, some have asked, did the PNC take this circuitous route to the recognition of Israel? Why didn't the PNC simply state: "We recognise the State of Israel and its right to exist in peace within secure borders"?

The question is legitimate, and the answer is that neither I nor the PNC—nor, for the matter, the United States—recognise Israel as it stands today, in control of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and determined, according to the repeated pledges of Yitzhak Shamir, his Likud Bloc and their various allies, to hold on to them.

By accepting Resolution 181, the PNC recognised Israel as one of the two states that share the historical land of Palestine, the other being the independent State of Palestine that was proclaimed on Nov. 15. Mutual juridical recognition between Palestine and Israel as two independent states will be exchanged at the international peace conference.

By accepting Resolution 242, the PNC recognised Israel's right to exist within secure borders following its withdrawal from the territories it acquired by military conquest in 1967, as required in that resolution.

It has been said that all the decisions of the PNC mean nothing because the PNC did not specifically state that the Charter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which calls for the "destruction of Israel," was hereby annulled.

The Charter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation—which, incidentally, does not call for the destruction of Israel or endorse the throwing of the Jews into the sea, but envisions a democratic state in which both claimants to historical Palestine can live in peace and equality—has been superseded by the decisions of the PNC, the author of the Charter.

By endorsing a two-state solution, the PNC has abandoned the one-state solution mentioned in the Charter.

In essence, the Charter was a rejection of the U.N. partition resolution of 1947. The PNC has now withdrawn that rejection and by so doing annulled the sections of the Charter that have caused so much consternation in Israel, the U.S. and elsewhere.

It has been said that statements made by certain members of the PLO before and after the announcement of the PNC decisions contradict the letter or spirit of those decisions, confirming suspicions that the PNC statements constitute a tactical retreat from the maximalist demands of the PLO and not a final abandonment of them.

Some have gone so far as to say that the "insincerity" of the PNC decisions was established in advance by the mere presence at the Algiers confgerence of a person or persons charged with acts of terrorism.

I am at a loss to understand the logic of this objection. When I and others from the PLO make statements or take actions that can only be construed as peaceful in intent, those are rejected as a basis for negotiations on the grounds that they represent personal views and do not have the authority of the PLO behind them.

And yet, when other members of the PLO make statements that are perceived to be belligerent, those statements, which are also expressions of personal views and do not have the authority of the PLO behind them, are deemed sufficient to negate the officially adopted and publicly announced policies of the PNC.

Let me set the record straight on this point: The decisions of the PNC were approved by majority vote, with 253 voting in favour, 46 voting against, and 10 abstaining. This means that at least 46 and possibly 56 members of the PNC do not approve of its new policies.

Their disapproval, however, casts no shadow on the PNC decisions—any more than the disapproval of over 40 per cent of the American people casts a shadow on the presidency of Mr. George Bush.

It boils down to this:

The Palestine Liberation Organisation has officially changed its position from one of total rejection of Israel's right to exist as an exclusive Zionist state to one of full

acceptance of Israel under the terms of Security Council Resolution 242, which requires Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967.

The PLO, which once refused on principle to hold talks with Israel, has now officially expressed its desire for negotiations with Israel in the context of an international peace conference aimed at the achievement of a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

The PLO's past programme, which sought the liberation of Palestine by armed struggle, has now officially been replaced by a policy that seeks "the settlement of international and regional disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations" and rejects the threat or use of "force or violence or terrorism" by the Palestinians or the Israelis—as clearly stated in the Palestinian Declaration of independence.

These major policy changes are not a "PR gimmick" or "dust in the world's eyes" or the opening move of a diabolical scheme for the phased annihilation of Israel. They are an honest expression of the Palestinian majority's belief that the State of Palestine can coexist alongside the State of Israel.

This peace offer does not come from circus performers willing to jump through endless hoops for a cube of sugar, or from panhandlers begging for a handout and ready to take all kinds of abuse for it. It comes from a people who have rights, who have been stripped of those rights, who are determined to regain them, and who have now decided to believe the Israelis, Americans, Soviets, Europeans and others who have been assuring them that those rights can be regained by peaceful means.

In offering our hand, we were gambling that it would not be lopped off. In extending the olive branch, we were hoping that it would not be used to flog us.

The responses of Israel and the U.S. Administration so far suggest that it was a bad gamble and a naive hope. They suggest that PLO moderation makes the Israeli and American administrations uncomfortable. They suggest that the people in charge in Tel Aviv and Washington want to provoke the PLO into dropping all peace options, using this as a cover for the continued enslavement and persecution of the Palestinian people.

My hope now is that Washington 1989 will differ from Washington 1988 and give peace a visa.

If I am once more risking a charge of gullibility, that is a small price to pay compared with the disaster I fear will strike us, the Israelis, the Mideast and everyone with interest in that region when hope runs out.

Program of FLN Sixth Congress Reported

LD0112102588 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Confidence in President Chadli Bendjedid has been confirmed once again and the pledge to adopt work and realism in the move toward achieving the aspirations and objectives included in the FLN program at the sixth congress has been renewed. Through the resolutions and decisions approved, the course for guaranteeing the future of the revolution and for preserving the unity of the people is being renewed. On the basis of an analysis of the data on the development of Algerian society, the general policy resolution reflected the realistic view of the congress.

Hence the congress expressed its conformity with the reforms included in the president's speech on the state of the nation, which he embodied in his initiative announced last 24 October. It believes that the required reforms are characterized by comprehensiveness, complementarity, and clarity, calling for the drafting of a comprehensive and integrated program which deals with political, economic, social, and cultural life. The congress considers the constitutional reforms, approved by the Algerian people by a clear majority, as paving the way for the achievement of the coming stages which fall within the context of comprehensive and integrated reform which is popularly and immediately demanded.

The congress records with satisfaction the resolution to establish a state of law, the call for the independence of the judiciary and the protection of judges and of the citizen. It also records with satisfaction the declaration of the establishment of the constitutional council at the level of the presidency to enable it to preserve the constitutional legitimacy of the laws and express a fair and objective opinion in order to avoid contradiction in the special domains of the state institutions.

While the congress confirms the importance of the role played by the media in national life, it records its satisfaction with the announcement made by the secretary general concerning the revision of the information law in order to maintain credibility and protect the journalist so that he can practice his profession and present facts objectively, while preventing the defamation or violation of the private life of the citizen.

The conference records with satisfaction the importance of the resolution concerning the need for officials at various levels to declare their material gains when they assume office and when they leave it.

While the congress confirms the utilization of all vital energies in the meantime, it records with satisfaction the statement by the secretary general concerning entrusting the government with the task of assessing the duration of national service in the future and to discharge those who were not enlisted to do national service and remained in suspension as a result of rigid bureaucratic complications.

The congress considers the convening of the sixth congress to be a prominent event in the nation's life. It opens a new era in the organization of political life based on the wider exercise of democracy since the challenges facing the nation require the agreement of the great majority on a political action program which is based on the basic principles of the revolution, maintains the firm principles of the FLN, and permits the energies of the nation to be expressed.

The congress warmly saluted the Algerian expatriate community in Europe which constitutes an indivisible part of the Algerian people, and praises its sincere patriotic spirit and its total adherence to the supreme ideals of the Algerian nation. It records the spirit of responsibility and political awareness which it proved through its ability to expose all the manouvers of the enemies of the Algerian revolution and homeland, confront them and abort them.

After getting acquainted with the secretary general's report concerning the foreign policy of Algeria, the congress highlights its insistence on supporting the just causes in the world and on contributing to the promotion of international peace and security and to the establishment of a new international order based on the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

The congress expressed its deep satisfaction with the declaration of the independent State of Palestine on 15 November 1988 and is proud that Algeria was the first state to recognize the young Palestinian state. The congress confirms its conviction that the resolution of the Middle East crisis and its fundamental problem—the Palestine problem—involves the convocation of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. This includes participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the other parties involved, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other participants.

And after studying the important developments witnessed by the Arab Maghreb in light of the dynamics of the political consultation and economic cooperation which have characterized relations among the states of the region, and after recalling the Algerian efforts to create the necessary conditions for the edification of the Arab Maghreb, the congress expresses Algeria's deep conviction that the edification of the Arab Maghreb is not only an historical need which falls within the context of the common fate of the region's peoples; it is an inevitability dictated by the requirements which control the direction of today's world toward the formation of major economic and political blocs.

The congress also expresses its adherence to the continuation of the process of dialogue and consultation that is taking place among the states of the area within the framework of subcommittees on cooperation and the Maghreb political committee which seeks to lay out the political and structural frameworks for achieving economic integration and political coordination. The congress expresses its deep regret at the continuing problem of the Western Sahara. It holds the conviction that this conflict constitutes an obstacle on the road of building the Arab Maghreb.

After affirming Algeria's support for the Saharan people and stating that the issue is one of decolonization, the congress affirms Algeria's complete support for the efforts of both the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general directed at arriving at a just and final solution to the issue of Western Sahara by organizing an honest referendum under UN and OAU supervision away from any military or administrative pressures.

The political resolution also dealt with the other principled stands of Algeria's foreign policy, whether regarding liberation issues or international cooperation and peace.

Egypt

Membership in Arab League 'Will Be Restored'

JN0112194488 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
30 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-WATAN—Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have affirmed that Egyptian-Syrian relations will be resumed soon and that Egypt's Arab League membership will be restored in December. The sources revealed that continuous Egyptian-Syrian contacts were held recently and that a high-ranking Egyptian official returned from Damascus recently. The sources said this official explained that Syrian officials have welcomed the resumption of relations between Damascus and Cairo and that there is a Syrian understanding of the Egyptian stands on regional and international issues.

The sources said that Syria recently "applauded the Egyptian official reaction toward Syria as well as the cordial way Mubarak always talks about President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria has also applauded the disappearance of the [anti-Syrian] campaign from Egyptian mass media."

On the other hand, a Palestinian source said that during his recent visit to Tripoli, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat raised with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the issue of the resumption of relations between Egypt and Libya. These sources referred to [Arab League Secretary General] Chedli Klibi's statements in which he welcomed the recent Egyptian stand of recognizing the Palestinian state. They also referred to the attendance of Muhyi al-Din Sabir, president of the Arab League Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, at a celebration to honor writer Najib Mahfuz as representative of an Arab League organization for the first time, as well as his attendance as representative for the Arab League at a seminar on the protection of Jerusalem holy places in Cairo. The sources said that all these matters prepare for an imminent Egyptian return to the Arab League.

AL-WAFD on Return to Arab League

JN0112202088 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
29 Nov 88 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo have asserted that recent Arab consultations have brought about an Arab consensus on holding a summit conference in Riyadh to discuss a unified stand toward recent developments in the Palestine question and current Lebanese crisis. The same circles pointed out that the summit date will be fixed after the conclusion of the GCC summit, scheduled to be held next month in Manama.

The same circles asserted that the Riyadh summit will be held by the end of next month or by mid-January. These circles also asserted that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan are intensifying their consultations with all Arab states about the question of Lebanon's representation at the summit in view of the presence of two governments: A civilian one led by Salim al-Huss and a military one led by Michel 'Awn. The circles revealed that there is a trend to represent Lebanon by a high-level delegation from the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

The circles added that Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and King Husayn of Jordan are currently trying to convince Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the need to extend an invitation to Egypt to attend the next summit as an observer to pave the way before ending the freezing of its membership in the Arab League during the summit. The sources pointed out that there is a certain Syrian flexibility toward the subject of Egypt's return to the Arab League after its recognition of the Palestinian state and after it asserted its adherence to the Collective Arab Defense Pact if Israel attacks any Arab state. The circles expect that Arab leaders will intensify their efforts to achieve an Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement before convening the Riyadh summit to avoid any differences about the restoration of Egypt's membership in the Arab League.

Al-Baz on King Husayn's Talks, Ties With Syria

JN0212092088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Dec 88 pp 1, 17

[Text] Cairo—SAWT AL-SHA'B—In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B's correspondent, Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs, has said that the strong fraternal relations between His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak and growing Jordanian-Egyptian relations constitute one of the mainstays of unified Arab

action and genuine Arab solidarity. This solidarity, he said, transcends all legal and constitutional forms to reach the depths of Arab solidarity protecting Arab presence, rights, and security now and in the future.

He said that President Mubark was very happy about his talks with His Majesty King Husayn during his visit that concluded yesterday, especially since the talks came during the serious stage through which the Arab cause is passing and while the Arab nation is facing more serious challenges. Therefore, regular meetings of the two leaders are very important, he said.

Al-Baz said that during their latest talks King Husayn and President Mubarak reviewed developments in the region since the convening of the PNC session in Algiers, various reactions to the PNC's political statement, and the U.S. refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa and means of reacting positively to this refusal. The most important thing and the top priority, he added, is to push the issue forward and deal with events in a way that achieves maximum benefit and maintains Arab rights.

He said the two leaders also reviewed the situation regarding the Gulf peace talks. They underlined Arab insistence on a decisive and unwavering end to the war and stressed that they firmly support the Iraqi position in so far as it calls for an end to the war and all threats of war. Iraq also calls for an end to all causes of dispute and disagreement between the two countries and for achieving maximum stability, security, and peace, not only for Iraq and Iran, but also for the Gulf states.

He added that Egypt and Jordan are very much interested in seeing peace and stability, which are vital to our strategic security, prevail in this region.

Dr al-Baz said that King Husayn and President Mubarak reviewed the situation in Lebanon. They are very greatly interested in what is going on there and are looking forward to a time when the Lebanese people will be able to restore stability and security in the country.

He said that there must be a way out to the Lebanese crisis. Through their awareness of and concern for their national unity, the Lebanese are capable of achieving the political and constitutional reforms that will guarantee coexistence among all their groups.

On Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation, Al-Baz said: As usual, and by virtue of his pan-Arab zeal and conscience, King Husayn, thanks to him, is keen on removing all that may blemish relations between the Arab countries. Consequently, he is not mediating, because his majesty is not a mediator between two Arab countries. Rather, he is a force for good, peace, purity, accord, and reconciliation.

He said that there are no specific plans or arrangements for meetings, but relations are currently being humidified and purified. The important thing is that we succeed in confining our differences within rational limits.

He added: From the beginning, Egypt has believed that it has no feud with Syria or any other Arab country. Egypt and Syria are comrades in arms; they have the same goals and much in common in various aspects. Whenever disagreements in viewpoints appear, they are of a passing nature, with no effect on the relations between the two peoples and countries.

He said: We must know that we may have different views and clashing opinions, but there should be no conflict. There can never be genuine contradictions between the Egyptian and Syrian interests, or between the interests of any two Arab countries. We, therefore, believe that there can be no genuine contradiction between the interests of Iraq and Syria. Consequently, we believe that the disagreements are either artificial or result from different viewpoints. It is natural for humans to adopt various views.

Dr al-Baz said: This divergence of viewpoints should not affect cordial ties. We ought to learn how to use this divergence of viewpoints. Many countries with various views are grouped within one framework. This is a prominant sign in political life.

Dr al-Baz stressed that we must seize this opportunity and achieve this, so long as we agree that there can be no contradiction or difference in interests between any two fraternal Arab countries

'Abd al-Majid Denies U.S., Israeli Pressure

NC2611200588 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1842 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—At its meeting under speaker Rifa't al-Mahjub this afternoon, the People's Assembly General Committee reviewed the working plan of the Assembly and the bills the government may submit to the Assembly during its coming session.

The General Committee approved a statement delivered by Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, head of the Arab Affairs Committee, welcoming the PNC resolutions in Algiers, which are characterized by pragmatism and objectivity, and foremost of which is the proclamation of a Palestinian state. The statement also expressed the People's Assembly's appreciation of the government's support for and recognition of the Palestinian state.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, declared before the committee that Egypt supported and recognized the Palestinian state from the first moment and that Egypt's support for the Palestinian cause is clear and absolute.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid categorically denied rumors on the existence of Israeli or U.S. pressure on Egypt, stressing that this has not happened at all and that Egypt cannot accept pressure from anyone.

Discussing the developments in the situation regarding the implementation of the ruling on Tabah, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt is doing its utmost to put the ruling into implementation and that Egypt cannot relinquish an iota of any of its legitimate right based on international legitimacy and international law.

The General Committee's meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the two deputy speakers, the heads of committees, and representatives of the political parties.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed

PM3011165688 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29 Nov 88 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by Dino Frescobaldi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] Cairo—There is a joke doing the rounds in Cairo to the effect that Israel is the only state that can permit itself to have a superpower as a satellite. "America's decision to deny 'Arafat a visa is doubly lamentable. Not only does it openly conflict with the 1947 UN-U.S. accords, but it also conflicts with the still hoped-for U.S. role as a full partner in the Middle East peace process. Nevertheless it would be a serious mistake if all the forces struggling for peace were now to lose the impetus imparted to the peace process by the PNC's recent decisions in Algiers, which virtually everyone welcomed as a major positive event." This was said by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid who, though certainly saddened, is no less determined to pursue the path of peace opened up by Al-Sadat's famous visit to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

"We are witnessing a truly historic change," he said, "which could lead to peace. Until recently nobody dreamed that the Palestinians could do what they have done. Their Algiers document embodies certain fundamental points—not only acceptance of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, implying recognition of Israel, and Resolution No 181, which was in practice Israel's birth certificate, but also the Palestinian state's commitment to a confederation with Jordan and, last, the condemnation of the recourse to terrorism, which removes the final obstacle to a peace conference. So it is a complete change.

[Frescobaldi] What about the Israeli elections, which made the religious extremists the arbiters of the situation?

['Abd al-Majid] The elections are an internal Israeli affair. I have already said that Egypt is willing to negotiate with whichever government Israel chooses. We only hope that the new government will resolutely take the path of peace because peace is necessary to Israel and to the other countries of the area.

[Frescobaldi] It may all seem simple and clear to you, but some people claim that the PLO declaration still embodies some unclear points.

['Abd al-Majid] So let us talk clearly. Could the Palestinians really be expected to concede everything at the outset? I say: Let the negotiations begin, then we shall see what happens. Also I would ask: What has Israel done, and what is it doing, to meet the Palestinians halfway? We too are entitled to see. And what do we see? Repression, massacres, torture, in other words, heavy-handed methods in the occupied territories. Under such conditions, could the Palestinians concede everything right away? Yes, some people claim that the Palestinians have not given enough. In that case, almost everyone, starting with the EC, is mistaken in welcoming the Algiers document as a major positive factor.

[Frescobaldi] Yes, the EC. The Arab League has said it is disappointed with the latest Brussels communique. Do you agree with the League?

['Abd al-Majid] I do not agree at all with the League's criticisms. I considered the communique excellent. Perhaps the League simply wants to raise the stakes.

[Frescobaldi] Perhaps you expected an explicit recognition of the Palestinian state.

['Abd al-Majid] Listen: In my opinion Europe took a step forward even from its Venice declaration. Its communique must be interpreted in the light of the new factor. At the time of the Venice summit there was no PLO willingness to establish its own state while at the same time recognizing Israel. Now this willingness does exist. So there is a precise reference point for putting the Palestinians' right to self-determination into practice. Therefore the Twelve's latest statement inevitably leads to the recognition of a Palestinian state.

[Frescobaldi] Egypt is said to have hesitated before recognizing the Palestinian state. When at last it did so Israel accused Cairo of having violated the Camp David agreements.

['Abd al-Majid] Hesitations? Definitely not. We declared our full support for the Algiers document from the outset. As for the charge levelled at us by Israeli circles of having violated the Camp David agreements, it is groundless. As far as the substance is concerned, we feel entirely in line with the Camp David accords. This is the essential thing. Nobody can be happy about what is happening, with Israel's conduct based on violence and reprisals against defenseless people. The Palestinians are entitled to dignity and are a people with a great history. The treatment to which they are at present subjected prompts outrage throughout the world. Our stance is not directed against Israel: On the contrary, it aims to promote real peace between Israel and its neighbors.

[Frescobaldi] Your explanation may be valid for moderates and people of goodwill, but the Egyptian Government now has to deal with someone as awkward as Shamir. Will it succeed in convincing him?

['Abd al-Majid] We are willing to negotiate even with Mr Shamir, correctly and respectfully. In any case, we are convinced that basically even he is seeking peace. Of course there are differences between us and him: For us the problem is recognition of the Palestinians' rights. Nobody threatens Israel any more: Israel is strong enough to defend itself, but Israel's best defense is to live in peace with its neighbors.

[Frescobaldi] It used to be said that Egypt was isolated within the Arab world. Now you seem to me fully reintegrated. Is this not so?

['Abd al-Majid] Isolated? We have never been isolated. Yes, we have had difficult moments. Perhaps it is others who are isolated—others whom I will not name. I will leave you to guess.

Further Commentary on Denial of 'Arafat Visa

U.S. Decision 'Misguided'

NC0212094088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0631 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—There is a consensus among major Cairo dailies appearing today that the misguided U.S. decision to refuse Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to deliver his speech before the UN General Assembly has met with international anger and dismay. The United States, the papers say, has, for the first time in its history, met with complete international isolation, even on the part of its closest friends.

AL-AHRAM says that 151 countries have announced their rejection of the U.S. decision at the UN General Assembly. This, the paper says, establishes the considerable achievement gained by the historic decisions made at the PNC's recent meeting. It also proves how ineffective the Israeli campaign of distortion and misinformation against the Palestinians has become. Israel has been trying to depict the Palestinians as inveterate terrorists who reject peace, and allegation helped and abetted by most political and media circles which shape public opinion in the United States.

AL-AHRAM says that Palestinian moderation has won unprecedented world support to the Palestinian issue, while the PLO and the Palestinians had nothing to lose by recognizing Resolution No 242, denouncing terrorism, and accepting the challenges of peace in accordance with international laws.

The paper expresses the hope that this will not be Washington's last word and that the new administration under George Bush will seek to develop a correct understanding of the Middle East conditions so as to be able to pursue its leading role in establishing the true peace, which is much needed by all the parties concerned without exception.

Writing under the headline "The Arab Summit Must Be Held at Once," another Cairo daily, AL-AKHBAR, says that an emergency Arab summit should be held in the aftermath of the stupid U.S. decision. A summit is needed, the paper says, to take a firm stand against this position, which is not only hostile to the PLO but also is contemptuous of the entire Arab nation. The U.S. decision calls for a swift response which shows the world that there is solidarity among Arab countries and that the Arabs stand behind the Palestinian people.

At this historic juncture, AL-AKHBAR says, Arab officials are required to concentrate their efforts on holding the summit at the nearest possible opportunity so as to examine the recent developments which took place over the past few weeks.

The paper says that a unanimous decision should be reached to announce the opinion of the entire Arab world on what has happened, to stress support to the new Palestinian state, and to denounce the attempts to deny Palestinian leaders their legitimate right to address the UN General Assembly.

The paper concludes that the current situation calls on every true Arab to stand up for Arab dignity, which is facing a challenge of undisguised insolence that must be dealt with immediately. History will not have mercy on those who fail to rise to this challenge, the paper concludes. [passage omitted]

Decision Called 'Shameful'

PM0112120488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 88 p 5

[Article by 'Imad al-Din Adib: "Shame... and Bias!"]

[Text] It is shameful for the U.S. Administration to have decided to refuse Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States.

The U.S. spokesman's explanation of the decision was illogical because he talked of 'Arafat's link with and support for so-called terrorism.

Events—the best witness—have proved that the PLO is not a terrorist organization, but an organization conducting a political and military struggle to liberate its territory.

Had the Americans understood the famous Cairo declaration in which 'Arafat condemned terrorism, had they understood the PNC final statement, and had they

carefully read the 'Arafat's long interview with the American magazine NEWSWEEK 3 weeks ago, they would have realized that the man is vigorously calling for peace, to the extent that hardline Palestinian factions are accusing him of capitulation.

Despite all this, and as the Egyptian proverb says, "they are still not satisfied."

What is Yasir 'Arafat supposed to do? Is he required to send the U.S. Administration a blank check signed "at your service and at the Shamir government's disposal"?

Clearly the U.S. Administration's Zionism is stronger than its Arab interests.

Clearly Shultz is determined to end his term without opening the door to the Palestinians, however little.

The school of George Shultz, Alexander Haig, Philip Habib, Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Henry Kissinger, which supports Israel, is still going strong and will continue to view U.S. decisions through Israel's eyes.

We are not asking the U.S. Administration to do anything impossible. We are only asking it to work for the sake of its national security and strategic interests.

We are not demanding, dreaming, or hoping that U.S. decisions be Arabized.

We are only asking the U.S. Administration to be American!

U.S.-Israel 'Extremism' Viewed

JN0112152288 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 2

["Comment" column by Ahmad Taha al-Naqr: "A Regrettable Stand"]

[Text] Last Friday, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said that his government sincerely hoped that Washington would not grant an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat to address the United Nations. He added, as if he were instructing Washington what it must do, that all that the U.S. State Department need do to prevent 'Arafat from entering the United States was to show the immigration department a document proving that 'Arafat is involved in terrorist acts. The strange thing is that this is exactly what the U.S. State Department did.

This is an extremely serious development which proves that the superpower, the United States, which has vital interests in the region, no longer views the Middle East problems except through Israel's eyes at a time when fanaticism and extremism are prevailing in the Israeli street to the point that they threaten the existence of Israel itself.

The U.S. stand comes at a time when the friends of the United States expected a positive reply to the Palestinian peace initiative that recognized UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, something which was earlier set by Washington as a condition to open dialogue with the PLO. Moreover, the Jordanian monarch has stressed that he has a document written by U.S. officials in which Washington pledges to open dialogue with the Palestinians if they recognize the two resolutions. However, the Palestinian initiative, which Europe stressed is a step forward, received Washington's neglect and indifference.

The most serious issue is that by this regrettable stand, Washington left the door wide open for extremism in the region because it disavowed the most moderate resolutions in the PLO's history and turned its back to the olive branch.

Paper on 'Stupid Action'

NC0112110788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR resumes its criticism of the U.S. decision banning PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from delivering his speech at the UN General Assembly. The paper says: The criticisms made by even the closest U.S. allies must prompt U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his secretary of state to reconsider their stand in order not to leave a black spot on the record of the government which committed such a stupid action.

In its editorial on Thursday, AL-AKHBAR says: The United States finds none to support its stupid decision which is unprecedented, particularly in the history of a state which claims on every occasion that its supports freedom and the rights of man everywhere on the surface of this planet, in even the most remote place.

The paper adds: What aggravates Washington's stand is that it deprives a people's leader of his right to speak and shed light on his people's cause as they face the greatest violation of their right to freedom and attempt to regain their occupied homeland. This is a time when intensive efforts are exerted to defend the rights of man in the Eastern Bloc states and other places where undoubtedly the peoples do not endure even a small part of what the Palestinian people suffer at the hands of a state which still prefers gang methods to those civilized states.

Solidarity Against 'Injustice'

NC0112054588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the successive events on the Arab arena, particularly the Palestinian arena, have made it necessary to manifest the Arab solidarity tangibly and substantially, and not as it was manifested for several years when all Arab action was unilateral and divided.

In its commentary in Thursday's issue, the paper says: Many vague stands have now become cleared and less uncertain. This behooves the Arabs to agree on new plans of action for continuing more intensively and strongly their struggle to attain their rights. They must guarantee the continuation of the process, which must not stop on the edge of this historic juncture.

AL-AHRAM adds: The U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian issue, as shown in its decision to deny an entry visa to Palestinian leader 'Arafat, is not only a test of Arab solidarity and its practical measures to confront this regrettable change, but also a test of world solidarity in the face of this blow which is directed against the international grouping at the United Nations.

The paper expresses its hope that the world's denunciation of the U.S. decision will be interpreted in subsequent measures, mainly by moving the discussion of the Palestinian question to the UN Headquarters in Geneva. This would not only uphold the Palestinians' right to a world hearing of 'Arafat's speech, but also serve as an international demonstration against the U.S. injustice.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM stresses that the issue now is bigger than one of a mere answer to the U.S. measure. It is an issue, it says, of a real collective march to uphold rights and establish strength after a long wait.

Daily on Unified Arab Stand

NC2511214588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—The weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that an agreement has been reached on an Arab move aimed at achieving a unified Arab front on a number of issues, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese problem. In its Saturday edition, the paper says that this move will come in stages, beginning with direct contacts among the Arab kings and presidents to completely clear the air of any differences. The contacts will be followed by an Arab summit, convened in an ordinary and not extraordinary session, which will take a unified Arab stand on the new U.S. Administration and the Western countries to gain their support for convening an international conference for peace.

EC Support for Palestinian State Welcomed

JN2911133088 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Nov 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The European Stand Needs a Strong Push"]

[Text] Egypt has welcomed the statement which was issued by the EC foreign ministers following their meeting in Brussels yesterday regarding the PNC decision on the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the European statement expresses a spirit of responsibility and emanates from the EC countries' determination to acknowledge legitimate Palestinian rights.

The European stand has not surprised anyone. The EC, which now comprises 12 countries, has adopted stands in support of Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent homeland for many years, from the renowned Venice Declaration to the European Council resolutions and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat address.

No doubt that the support of the European states for the Palestinian position and their continued call for settling the Middle East problem through peaceful talks between Israel and the PLO give strong impetus to the required peace process and encourage other states, which are still hesitant to recognize the new Palestinian state, to adopt a decisive position in this regard. All the Arab countries should start large-scale diplomatic moves to encourage the EC countries to take the anticipated step of recognizing the independent Palestinian state, particularly since there are European states which can be persuaded to take that step because of their close ties with the Arab world such as Greece, Spain, and France.

The international recognition of the new state has continued. So far, 60 states have announced their recognition of the Palestinian state. However, Europe's recognition will have its strong impact in this respect. A delegation representing the British European League has issued a statement calling for recognizing the Palestinian state to promote efforts for just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The statement affirmed that Europe has a historic opportunity to project its effective contribution toward a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In this climate, which we think is right to back the the Palestinians' right to establish their free state, quick and decisive steps must be taken by the Arabs to convince all friendly states to stand by the Palestinian people to end their suffering and the ordeal they have been living for many years.

Memorandum Signed With UK on Drugs, Terrorism

NC3011191988 Cairo MENA in English 1905 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov 30 (MENA)—Egypt and Britain signed today a joint memorandum of understanding and cooperation in the field of drugs smuggling and terrorism fighting. The memo was signed by Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr and Secretary of State for the Home Office Douglas Hurd.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends 'Important' Letter to Iran

LD0112210288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Mohammad Kazem Khansari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother leader entrusted the Iranian ambassador with an extremely important letter for the Iranian leadership.

Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Meets Al-Talhi

LD0112060688 Tehran IRNA in English 0553 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Dec. 1 IRNA—Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi currently here for the first session of joint Tehran-Tripoli Economic commission met with Libyan Foreign Minister 'Azzuz al-Talhi on Wednesday.

Nabavi informed the Libyan official of great opportunities that existed for bilateral cooperation. He added that the visit of the Iranian delegation aimed at laying a solid foundation for expansion of cultural, economic, trade, and technical relations.

Al-Talhi referred to the high status of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic community and said that Iran played a major role in promoting relations among the Islamic countries.

He also expressed Libya's interest in expanding relations with Iran which he said will help further consolidate the existing friendly ties.

Solidarity Day With Palestine Marked

LD0112144388 Tripoli JANA in English 0045 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A celebration was conducted on the International Day in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people. Present at this celebration were the secretary of the People's Committee for Information and Culture and some members of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau, the secretary of the People's Congress of Tripoli's Municipality, the director of the UN office in Great al-Jamahiriyah, apart from the members of the diplomatic missions accredited to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture has given a speech in this celebration condemning the repressive and savage practices of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine.

He adds that all the media organs convey to the world the horrible scenes of the inhuman treatment of the Palestinians at the hands of the Zionists. This, he stresses, confirms that the Zionists are terrorists and the Palestinians are the victims of this terorism. All the Arabs are victims of this terrorism. As an example is the refusal of the U.S. Administration to grant an entry visa to Mr Yasir 'Arafat. This is stark terrorism. People, he adds, will never be defeated. This has been confirmed by the stone-throwing children in their revolution. With stones these children are facing the Zionists who are armed to the teeth with the most advanced weapons. The Zionists have failed in supressing this revolution which is increasing day by day.

Meanwhile, the ambassador of Palestine in Great Al-Jamahiriyah has given a speech lauding Great Al-Jamahiriyah and its consistant stances vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause (?as) the first cause of the Arabs. He has condemned the decision of the U.S. Administration to refuse an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat to give the speech of Palestine at the UN.

A documentary exhibition was held on this occasion displaying the sufferings of the Palestinian people and the victims of the horrible mass murders committed by the Zionists against the Palestinian people in Shatilla and Sabra. The exhibits display and feature the revolution of stones raging in occupied Palestine [words indistinct] revolutionary posters stressing the rights of the Palestinian people and the inevitability of victory over the Zionist enemy and the return to Arab Palestine.

Mauritania

President Taya Warns Against Hatred, Division

AB2811090088 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Our country is today celebrating the 28th anniversary of its national independence. Yesterday evening Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the CMSN chairman and head of state, addressed the nation. In this message, the head of state recalled that we started off in (?unity) and we have (?suffered) a lot as a result of the difficult world economic situation coupled with the effects of a long period of drought which have had a negative influence on our efforts in this direction. In this difficult world there is no place for hatred and divisions. The head of state urged us to work and make sacrifices.

Minister Delivers Taya Message to FRG's Kohl

AB0112121388 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The minister of economy and finance returned to Nouakchott yesterday afternoon from the FRG where he delivered a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the CMSN chairman and head of state, to the West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl. Mr Mohamed Ould Nany told the AMP [MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY] that he held talks with West German officials on the exemplary relations between our two countries and the means to strengthen them. The minister stated that talks with German officials were held in an atmosphere of confidence. He thanked the FRG authorities for the warm welcome and kind hospitality he enjoyed during his stay.

2 PRC Broadcasting Delegations Arrive

AB0112142488 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] A delegation of the Chinese Ministry of Radio Broadcasting, Cinema, and Television, led by Mrs (Chin Yunchou), director of the international service of Radio Beijing, has arrived in Nouakchott. The delegation will visit places of economic interest in our country to produce reports and programs on Mauritania. Another Chinese delegation of journalists, traveling on the same plane, has also arrived here. It is led by Mr (Cha Yongchu), the director of Radio Beijing. During its 1-week stay, it will hold talks with communications officials on ways to strengthen cooperation in this field.

Senegal Killing Cattle Despite Transhumance Laws

AB3011182288 Paris AFP in French 1324 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, 30 Nov (AFP)—The movement of Mauritanian livestock into Senegal has for the past 3 days led Senegalese authorities in the northern part of the country to take harsh measures, it was learned today from an official source in Nouakchott. According to the same source, the herds are systematically impounded and their release is contingent on the payment of exorbitant fines. Cattle have even been slaughtered, contrary to agreements regulating transhumance between the two countries.

It was learned from the same source that these measures come at a time when the livestock were beginning to be moved back to Mauritania at the request of Senegalese authorities. An official source said that this request, which included a deadline which will expire very soon, had somewhat surprised the Mauritanian authorities. However, these authorities promptly sent teams to inform the stockbreeders about their return. They also suggested to the Senegalese authorities that this operation be delayed until the end of the peanut harvest period, since the fields are in the path of the returning cattle. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Former President Siwar al-Dahab on Shari'a

EA0112045288 Nairobi KNA in English 1238 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Kampala, 30 Nov (PANA)—The introduction of the controversial Shari'ah law (Islamic law) in the Sudan will be postponed until the current conflict between the central government and the people of southern Sudan ceases, the former head of state, 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dahab, said in a press conference in Kampala on Tuesday (25 Nov). Reacting to allegations that the introduction of the Shari'ah law has caused the existing conflict in his country the former head of state said that the conflict started long ago before the idea of introduction of Shari'ah was initiated.

He said talks between the rebel SPLA and the central government, which were already in progress, were aimed at resolving the conflict, adding that the question of the Shari'ah law will, therefore, have to be postponed. Al-Dahab said it was the people who are interested in seeing such conflict in Sudan who are alleging that the Shari'ah law had contributed to the problems in the country.

Asked how he managed to remain in his country, having been a president, unlike other African leaders, he said, I fulfilled my promise of handing over power to the civilians after one year when Numayri was toppled. I handed over power willingly and that's why I am living freely and respected now, both in and outside Sudan.

At the same press conference, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, Muhammad Ali, promised to raise funds in the U.S.A. together with the African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (ASHAD) to assist in the relief and rehabilitation programmes undertaken by development-oriented organizations in Uganda.

SPLA Urges Ousting of Islamic Front

LD0112084588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Compatriots, SPLA combatants in the field, greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle and welcome to this weeks edition of your program, "With the Battalions".

Comrades in struggle, during the last 2 weeks or so the foreign and domestic media has been dominated by the reports of Sudan's march toward peace, led by its two sons, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, leading the vanguard of the oppressed Sudanese people, the SPLM-/SPLA, and Sayyid Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leading the democrats in the Democratic Unionist Party, the DUP.

The measure taken by the two leaders is no doubt a patriotic one which will definitely lead to peace and lasting stability, if the lovers of war, bloodshed and destruction will not, in the process, jeopardize it. The SPLM/SPLA and the DUP fight this battle knowning very well they are going to win peace for the country. I use the word fight because there are forces of the national Islamic Front [NIF] in Khartoum, led by their self-imposed commander in chief, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, who are opposed to peace and are determined to wage war against the peace lovers.

But we would like to tell those soldiers of war, commanded by Dr al-Turabi, that whatever sabotages they plan to create and do, the majority of the Sudanese people, led by the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP, are absolutely certain of their success, that they can love and smile as they fight for peace, while you, the Turabis, are getting ulcers.

The Turabis now move in hiding like cockroaches, which only come out at night and at dark sides in kitchens and places where food is kept. Turabi and his group are now moving in hiding, trying to woo people to accept their sectarian and divisive belief. It is to be recalled that three of the NIF MPs from Darfur, who are very conscious of the suffering of their electorates, have already deserted the insensitive, inhuman Islamic Front and joined ranks with the democrats to bring peace to their people. We give congratulations to those big three from Darfur and we call on those who are still indecisive to decide quickly and join the people's march for peace.

No doubt, the resignation of these three MP's shocked Turabi, and as he struggles to move on with his archaic Islamic Shari'ah laws, more acid was added to his ulcers by the students in London when they made a peaceful demonstration in support of the SPLM/SPLA-DUP 17 November peace initiative last Saturday.

The students handed a petition to the Sudanese ambassador in London, saying that they support the peace initiative. They asked the ambassador to convey their message to the government in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Everybody loves peace in Sudan, including the Sudanese ambassadors abroad. But there are only 50 people who do not like peace to prevail in the Sudan. These are the remaining 48 MP's of the NIF, Dr Turabi, who imposes himself to be their leader although the people rejected him during the last elections, and lastly, Dr Turabi's brother-in-law, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, who, nevertheless, is cunningly moving with the present current. So, out of 30 million people only 50 want war and destruction. OKay, if the majority of 29,999,950 people want peace, why don't they push the minority 50 to hell. [passage omitted]

Libya's Jabir Holds Talks With Officials

Meets Communist Head

LD0112104088 Tripoli JANA in English 0856 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir received yesterday afternoon in his residence in Khartoum Mr. M. Naqd, sec. gen. of the Sudanese Communist Party.

Discusses Unity Proposal

LD0212084488 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir met yesterday in Khartoum Dr. A.H. Taj al-Din, member of the Supreme Council of sisterly Sudan.

Present at this meeting Mr. M. Ja'far, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Sudan and the ambassador of Sudan in great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Commenting to JANA's correspondent following this meeting, Dr. Taj al-Din has stressed that the existing relations between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Sudan are historical and of destiny pointing out the utmost importance given by the Government of Sudan to the proposal of unity presented to the peoples in great Al-Jamahiryah and Sudan. This proposal, he adds, is a forward step on the road of achieving the overall Arab unity which is aspired for.

Concluding his comments, Dr. Taj al-Din has stressed that great Al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan have a strategic objective, viz, the achievement of the overall Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

Meets Supreme Council Official

LD0212084888 Tripoli JANA in English 1733 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir met yesterday afternoon Mr Idris Al-Ban'a, vice-president of the Supreme Council of sisterly Sudan. Present at this meeting were Mr M. Ja'far, minister of education and higher education, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Sudan and the ambassador of Sudan to great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Attends Banquet

LD0112121788 Tripoli JANA in English 0858 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The prime minister of sisterly Sudan, Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, gave last night a banquet to Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. Present at this banquet were Messrs. M.O. al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, Dr. H. al-Turabi, sec. gen. of the national Islamic Front and minister of justice and attorney general, General A.H. Khalil, minister of defence, senior officials, apart from senior officers in the Sudanese Armed Forces and police. Also present were a number of members of the General People's Committee in great Al-Jamahiriya.

Talks With Al-Mahdi

LD0212082788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis met this morning in Khartoum brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister in sister Sudan. During the meeting which was attended by the Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning, Dr 'Umar Nur al-Dai'm, the means for consolidat-

ing the fraternal cooperation in the various fields between the sons of the one Arab people in the two sister countries were discussed.

Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir also met in Khartoum this morning brother Taha al-Mirghani, secretary general of the Nasirite Arab Socialist Party. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau in sister Sudan.

The joint action committees on economic and technical cooperation continued their work this morning at the conference hall at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Khartoum. During this session four subcommittees were formed in the economic, trade exchange, external investment, health, transport, communications, education, technical cooperation, and basic service fields.

Tunisia

French Speaker Fabius To Visit 1-3 Dec

LD3011234888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The House of Representatives has issued the following communique:

At the invitation of Mr Slaheddine Baly, speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Laurent Fabius, speaker of the French National Assembly, will pay an official visit to Tunisia at the head of a parliamentarian delegation from 1 to 3 December.

President Receives Italian Defense Minister

LD2111140088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at the Palace of the Republic of Carthage this morning Italian Defense Minister Valerio Zanone who convyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali feelings of solidarity and the friendly wishes of the Italian Government. He said he discussed with the head of state the continued Tunisian-Italian defense cooperation. The meeting was attended by the prime minister and the secretary general for national defense.

President Ben Ali Appoints New Governors

LD0212053588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali decided to carry out a partial change in the body of governors and made the following appointments:

Rafik Bel Haj Kacem as governor, director of the interior minister's office.

Kamel El Haj Sassi, as governor of Kairouan.

Faouzi Aouam, as governor of Tawzar.

Mohamed Rachdi, as governor of Ben 'Arus, in replacement of Mr Ameur Kriaa, who was moved to Silyanah.

Messrs Chedli Karoui and Ahmed Ridha Ouaja were called to other functions.

This took place during a meeting between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Interior Minister Chedli Neffati, and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage.

Kuwait

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on U.S. 'Political Terrorism'

JN0212111688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 29 Nov 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Arafat's Visa"]

[Text] It is no longer a secret that Israel constitutes one of the constant factors by which U.S. foreign policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict is determined. It is certain that the continuation of the Middle East conflict is in joint intersts of the United States and Israel and that any Arab movement toward realism and moderation will have no bearing whatsoever on the positions and policies of the current or subsequent U.S. Administrations. This fact should not be absent for long from the minds of those who imagine that they can effect practical changes in U.S. policy to force Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians and end its occupation of the territories.

'Arafat's visa, the U.S. rejection, and the echoes of George Shultz' decision constitute a reply to the PNC resolutions and to those who say that unilateral concessions may help modify Washington's stands or prompt the United States to change its view of the PLO as a "terrorist organization." The "'Arafat visa" shed light on overall U.S. policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It attracts attention that in this policy the Palestinians carry no weight and receive no consideration in comparison to the consideration given Israel in the fields of security, politics, and land. This emphasizes that successive U.S. Administrations are not concerned about peace as understood by the Arabs and their friends or as understood by most of the world community. It also means that Shultz' initiative 2 months ago was not serious. Rather, it was a waste of time, when the Arab side was discussing the issue of Palestinian representation in an international conference, now certain not to be convened, and if convened, not to succeed.

It was clear that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intended in advance to deny 'Arafat a visa when Israel and a number of U.S. congressmen asked for this denial. In fact, Shultz' stand, hostile as it is to the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people, poses many questions about the seriousness of U.S. positions and policies toward Arab issues. These questions do not concern the Americans as much as they concern us, the sufferers. We are concerned because we are still suffering from political terrorism perpetrated by a superpower against presidents and leaders, including Yasir 'Arafat and Austrian President Waldheim.

George Shultz was ordered by Israel to deny 'Arafat a visa. He responded, against the advice and despite the objection of his aides.

The U.S. stand will drive the Palestinians back. They may return to Algiers to ask their PNC whether its resolutions remain valid after the United States rejected the policy of moderation and declared war on peace in the interests of Israel, its occupation, and its methods of suppressing and aborting the Palestinian uprising.

Oman

Malaysian Officials Visit Information Ministry

JN2711185088 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] A session of official talks was held at the Information Ministry this morning between the Omani side led by His Excellency Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas and the Malaysian side led by His Excellency Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat. Attending the talks on the Omani side were 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, Information Ministry under secretary for financial and administrative affairs; Hamad ibn Muhammad al-Rashidi, under secretary for information affairs; and a number of senior Information Ministry officials. They were attended on the Malaysian side by members of the delegation accompanying the guest minister.

Following the session, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat made a statement to journalists. He said the talks were constructive, particularly in the various fields of information. He added: We have plans to consolidate and promote this cooperation in order to achieve more (?solidarity) between the two countries. There is a study under way on the possibility of forming a technical committee to implement the information agreement reached during these talks. He pointed out that an information agreement will be signed tomorrow between the Sultanate and Malaysia.

At the beginning of the session, 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas welcomed the visit by the Malaysian minister and his delegation. He said relations between the Sultanate and Malaysia have historical and religious roots. He stressed the interest of both countries' officials in continued development of these relations to serve the interest of the Omani and Malaysian peoples. He pointed to the recent visit to the Sultanate by the Malaysian prime minister. He said His Majesty Sultan Qabus welcomed that visit and they exchanged views in order to achieve further rapprochement between the two friendly countries and to benefit from the experience of both countries in order to join world development.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Concludes 26th Session

EA2911211088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Supreme People's Council Presidium today concluded the business of its 26th session under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas,

member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council. It greeted the masses of our Yemeni people on the 21st anniversary of glorious national independence—the fruit of our struggle and enormous sacrifices under the leaders who sparked off the glorious 14 October revolution, the National Front. It heralded the emancipation and independence of our Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland from the (?imamate) administration in the north and British colonialism in the south.

The Supreme People's Council Presidium said that the celebration of this occasion must be considered a celebration of the achievements made during the years of national independence. It appealed to the masses of people to preserve those revolutionary gains and mobilize all energies and potential to continue building the economic, social, and cultural edifice of a brighter future for our Yemeni people.

The Presidium also stressed the achievements in unification brought about by the two parts of the homeland and said that it now behooved us to strengthen further the efforts for unification on the basis of bringing about the reunification of Yemen. This is to be done on the basis of the principles and objectives of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions and [word indistinct] the Yemeni martyrs.

As for the U.S. rejection of a visa to enter the UN Headquarters in New York to the militant Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly, the Presidium denounced this rejection. It re-affirmed the stand of the United States in support of the Zionist enemy, being the major encourager in the Zionist settler and expansionist policies and against the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate rights, as well as peace and security in the Middle East.

The Presidium appealed to fraternal and friendly parliaments to stand united against this rejection. It urged their governments to support the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and all those who stand against U.S. intransigence—nothing less than a breach of the agreements concluded between the United States and the United Nations as an international organization. The Presidium hailed the struggle of the Palestinian people and their sacrifices in the occupied Arab territories under the PLO leadership.

The Presidium discussed a number of economic and social reports and approved a number of agreements. It approved the appointment of a number of ambassadors for our country, as well as acceptance of the nominations of ambassadors to be accredited to the PDRY. It also discussed other items on its agenda.

'Press Statement' on Yemeni Trade Union Talks

EA2811224888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] A press statement was issued in Aden this evening on talks between the leaders of the Yemeni trade union movement, held under the auspices of the General Federation of Workers [GFW] in the northern part of the homeland. The text follows:

A GFW delegation from the northern part of the homeland, led by Brother Husayn Salih al-Bahluli, visited Aden 24-27 November, 1988. Talks were held between leaders of the Yemeni trade union movement under the auspices of the GFW of the northern part of the homeland. They were chaired by Brother Rajih Salih Naji, member of the [YSP] Central Committee and secretary general of the [PDRY] General Federation of Trade Unions. They were a continuation of meetings held on the sidelines of the Central Council of Arab Trade Unions meeting in Morocco last month. They implement Resolution No 8 of that session, which provided for talks on strengthening and developing the role of the trade union movement in the north of the homeland.

Such talks were to be held in a spirit of responsible fraternity between the citizens of a single homeland embraced within the Yemeni trade union movement. The aim was to create brotherly, democratic, and sound conditions for a series of meetings between the two trades union (?groups) and talks dominated by a friendly, democratic, and responsible atmosphere. The aim was to arrive at positive and logical conclusions to guarantee the successful consolidation of the Yemeni trade union movement.

It was agreed to implement the results of the historic unity meeting between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland in Sanaa on 4 May 1988 in response to aspirations of unity cherished by the Yemeni masses throughout the homeland.

Soviet Military Delegation Ends Visit 29 Nov

EA3011115488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Soviet military delegation led by Comrade General Yuriy Ivanovich (Shomilikhin), chief of staff of the Soviet Artillery and Rocket Troops, left Aden this evening after a several-day visit to Democratic Yemen. Shortly before leaving, Comrade Gen (Shomilikhin) told ANA that he was pleased with his visit to Democratic Yemen, during which he familiarized himself with features of Democratic Yemen's civilization, heritage, and modern renaissance. He said he had met a number of military commanders, with whom he discussed relations between the two friendly countries. He ended his statement by lauding the deep relations between the two friendly parties and countries in all fields.

He was seen off at the airport by brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Sa'id Ubayd, member of the Central Committee and commander of the Artillery and Rocket Corps, and a number of Armed Forces commanders.

United Arab Emirates

Libyan Official Arrives With Al-Qadhdhafi Letter

JN0112210888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Dec (WAKH)—Libyan Revolutionary Command Council member Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi this evening arrived in Abu Dhabi from Tripoli for a visit to the UAE during a Gulf tour. On hand to greet him was Sa'id al-Ghayth, UAE state minister for cabinet affairs.

Al-Kharrubi said he is carrying a letter from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan congratulating him on the UAE's national day anniversary and dealing with issues of shared interest, notably the Palestinian question.

Applauding his highness the head of state, Al-Kharrubi said: The Libyan leader, government, and people hold his highness in high regard, given the distinguished relations between him and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that have reflected positively on relations between the two countries. He will discuss with UAE officials bilateral ties and other issues of interest to the Arab nation.

Received by President

JN0212104488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message contains congratulations from the Libyan leadership and people to his highness the UAE president and UAE people on the 17th anniversary of UAE national day.

The message also deals with issues of mutual interest. Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council, conveyed the message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid when the latter received him here this morning.

Saddam Husayn Discusses Iranian 'Rancor'

JN0112172688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that the crime the Iranian enemy committed by killing Iraqi prisoners of war on 1 December 1982 was the most hideous crime compared to similar crimes against humanity throughout the history of peoples and wars. He pointed out that during all battles, Iraq treated the Iranian prisoners of war well. The Iraqis were urged to recall the good behavior of their forefathers in all battles and wars.

This came in a speech President Saddam Husayn delivered during a ceremony to accord several families of martyrs with the martyr's insignia, the Al-Rafidayn medal of the second order, and valor medals.

His excellency added that in all battles, the forces of the Iranian enemy killed and mutilated the prisoners of war. He said that even in the recent great battles of liberation, Iraqi forces found some of our martyrs' bodies on the edges of shelters left in the open air for years. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that these hideous Iranian practices under the flag of the aggressor Iranian Army have urged us now to study the Iranian character carefully to ascertain whether this rancor was only fostered by Khomeyni. He added that this rancor reached the point where they used to leave the martyrs' bodies close to where they ate, drank, and slept, to gloat over them until their bodies become bones. [passage omitted]

His excellency added that Iran will continue to be our neighbour forever, just as Iraq will continue to be Iran's neighbour forever. He said that hostility lies in the person who kills a human being and leaves his dead body in the same place where he eats, drinks, sleeps, sits, and washes, without at least burying his body. President Saddam Husayn stressed that Iraqi generations must remember such hostility and be very cautious in this regard in order to avoid the evil posed by this danger. [passage omitted]

His excellency said that this rancor has led the Iranians to their ambitions and illusions and encouraged them to carry out their aggression against Iraq to meet their fate—represented by the destruction of their country.

President Saddam Husayn recalled it was recently announced in Tehran that the mobilization forces that participated in the aggression against Iraq amounted to 4 million. He said that according to what was announced, they confronted the Iraqis with 8 million fighters from the guards, army, police, border guards, and mobilization forces. His excellency wondered where these 4 million fighters went. He stressed that in recent battles, Iraqis confronted the remnants of the 4 million fighters, because in the recent battles, we saw approximately half a million fighters along the front. President Saddam Husayn said that this means that 3.5-4 million fighters were wiped out.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that from the very beginning, Iraq told them that you are free in your country and we are free in our country. You should not have illusions or be deluded or pushed to the abyss by anyone.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that it is in the interest of even the current officials in Iran to reconsider the factors of rancor in the Iranian character in order to decrease them. He said that it will also be in the interest of anyone who will rule Iran in the future to reconsider these factors if he seeks a true peace between Iraq and Iran, between Iran and the Arabs, and between Iran and humanity. He warned that this rancor against mankind will only involve them in further wars in which they will lose more, just as they have lost now.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Arab Historians 30 Nov

JN0112095788 [Editorial Report] Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 2106 GMT on 30 November carries a recording of proceedings of a 30 November reception by President Saddam Husayn for Arab historians participating in the conference on historical Arab victories and the meetings of the higher Arab commission for writing history organized by the Arab Historians Union in Baghdad.

The proceedings begin with a speech by a Moroccan historian on behalf of the Arab historians. The speaker congratulates the president, wishing him and Iraq continuous success and victory, and praises the achievements of the Arab Historians Union. He ends his speech at 2112 GMT and is immediately followed by speakers from the UAE, Egypt, and Kuwait, praising Saddam and Iraq. A ceremony begins at 2130 GMT, during which the Arab historians decorate President Saddam Husayn with a number of their union's medals. An unidentified speaker then announces that the president has agreed to be the honorary president of the Arab Historians Union. At 2144 GMT, Jordanian historian Sulayman Musa requests the president to speak.

Saddam Husayn begins speaking at 2145 GMT. He thanks the Arab historians and expresses pride in the honors they have conferred on him. He dwells on Arab history and its role in serving humanity. He says Iraq emerged victorious because of the Arab nation's support, emphasizing that the great Arabs in history have always been emulated by Iraqi soldiers. He says: "God has entrusted the Arab people, and not Iran, with spreading heavenly messages in the four corners of the world through Arab prophets." He says that at the war front the confrontation with Iran was not numerically balanced,

because the Iranians themselves admitted that they had mobilized at least 4 milion at the front. Iraq, he adds, placed only about 1.25 million at the front.

Noting that the Iraqi soldiers derived moral and physical strength from Arab history and support, Saddam says: "An Arab cannot be sectarian or distortionist as far as a certain religion or religions are concerned. He cannot be sectarian because all heavenly religions are the work of Almighty God, and the prophets were the prophets of God. Efforts to interpret principles within a certain religion is a human, not divine, effort. The divine sayings are clear, but other things are just explanations. Therefore, an Arab cannot replace the roots with the branches. He cannot replace divine ideas with human ideas. These are principles that unified the Iraqis although they belong to more than one religion—there are Christians and Muslims, Arabs and Kurds."

Saddam Husayn then speaks on Arab unity, saying that there are no contradictions among Arab countries despite some differences in race and religion, adding that the local history of Arab countries is part of the more comprehensive Arab history. He urged Arab histrians to consider that Iraqi victory came not from the strength of Iraq alone but from the support of the entire Arab nation. Speaking on Iranian faith, the president says: "The enemy's connection with Islam was weak because its undertsnding of Islam was distorted. Our connection with Islam was deep, based on what the Arab nation had to do in accordance with Islam. When our enemy said that they were a bastion of Islam, we knew that the enemy was lying because we were aware of the Koran and its meaning. We were aware who God entrusted with conveying the message of Islam."

The president concludes by reiterating Arab values and unity and thanking the Arab historians for honoring him. He concludes his speech at 2220 GMT, and the recording ends immediately afterword.

Information Minister on Negotiations, Other Issues
JN0112171088 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 15

[Interview with Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by Farhan al-Wuqayyan in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Wuqayyan] What is your comment on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks on the possibility of resuming the war?

[Jasim] To be accurate, Rafsanjani said we want either war or peace—one of the two—and we are ready for peace. This is also what we want. We approve the UN Security Council resolution as we explained it. However, it is now their move. They are supposed to cooperate if they are ready for peace according to the UN Security Council resolution. New steps will be taken to implement the resolution after the cease-fire is entrenched by the two sides. The two parties' agreement to entrench the cease-fire on land, in the air, and at sea will open a wide path toward peace. We will continue negotiations over other articles in the resolution as long as blood is spared.

Blood is the most important thing. The cease-fire is being observed. Cannon are now silent. Our ships exercise their right to free navigation according to international law. We call for the clearance of Shatt al-'Arab. They agree on clearance by the United Nations. This is the basis.

[Al-Wuqayyan] Some reports talk about Iraq's intention to change the course of Shatt al-'Arab.

[Jasim] This issue is being studied. However, if we reach an agreement that guarantees our rights in the Shatt al-'Arab, why change its course? However, responding to what Rafsanjani said, we say that he bears responsibility for what he said, about which I gave a balanced statement that was free of any threats. In that statement, we only stressed peace and told Rafsanjani that he was responsible for what he said before the Iranian people and the world.

[Al-Wuqayyan] 'Ali Akbar Velayati says that the Iraqi delegation has no authority in the negotiations.

[Jasim] Do you believe that? This is their problem. The fact that must be known is that there are two trends in Iran now. This is what Khomeyni said, not me. These two trends intrigue against each other. As long as there is no unified decisionmaking in Iran, procrastination will continue. However, I am sure that what strengthens Iran and any trend in it is peace. The trend of war does not strengthen Iran, but rather weakens it. However, we wonder whether the peace trend can take this step now.

Khomeyni has no ministers, but servants, and Velayati is one of Khomeyni's servants. We want to know whether peace has entered Khomeyni's mind or not.

[Al-Wuqayyan] Is the war actually over?

[Jasim] Without bragging, we say that the war is over. We live the post-war life with all its requirements and conditions. If a surprise takes place, it will not be on Iraq's part. We hope the current state will continue to the end. The war is over on the military and other levels. It ended with victory, which we celebrated. If another war is imposed on us one day, it will not be Al-Qadisiyah war. Therefore, you should join our happiness. The president now wears civilian suits and people are living in happiness. If they [the Iranians] are lamenting at cemeteries, this is their affair. [passage omitted]

[Al-Wuqayyan] What is your stand on countries that had positive relations with Iran?

[Jasim] We are ready to help any deviant that wants to correct its course and admit its mistake.

[Al-Wuqayyan] How are your relations with the PLO, and what is your comment on the declaration of the independent Palestinian state?

[Jasim] We have been supporting the Palestinian leadership for a long time. Since 1978, we have favored noninterference in Palestinian affairs and extended aid and political support to the Palestine question. The achievement of the Palestinian dream has become imminent due to the revolution of stones and brave Palestinian political decisions. A new state has joined the Arab group and began to elicit unusual recognition. The world is now before a test on whether it will be alongside the tyrant or victim. We have Arab resources and a new Arab voice equiped with political and military strength, unlike the past rhetorical boastful voice.

Now, the international community understands the Arabs in terms of international politics, economy, possession of weapons, and wisdom. The hope is becoming greater, and the dream of Palestine is not far. As brother Yasir 'Arafat says when he meets with his Arab brothers, we hope we will perform prayers in Jerusalem in the not-too-distant future, God willing. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Receives Thai Deputy Commerce Minister

JN2911174388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Chuchip Hansawat and his accompanying delegation.

Mr Hansawat conveyed the greetings of the Thai leadership to President Saddam Husayn, and its congratulations on the great victory, which opened the way for peace. He stressed Thailand's intent and desire to expand economic and trade ties with Iraq. He expressed confidence that the coming stage will witness remarkable development in various fields.

Mr Ramadan thanked the Thai leadership in the name of President Saddam Husayn for its congratulations, and expressed Iraq's intent to expand and promote prospects of cooperation with Thailand.

Mr Ramadan reviewed current Iraqi development plans in the field of oil, strategy, industry, and agriculture.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Blind Bias' of U.S. Stand

JN0112090288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that confronting the U.S. stand and compelling the United States to respect the Arabs' legitimate rights, particuarly the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights, will be impossible unless the United States feels the Arabs' power, the strength of their solidarity, and their support for the PLO. It will also be necessary for this strength to isolate the U.S. stand and threaten U.S. interests.

In an article today, the paper adds that the United States has confirmed on all occasions that it stands against Arab rights and the Arab nation's goals and interests through its blind bias toward the Arab nation's enemies and those who covet Arab territory, whether Zionsts, Persians, or others. The paper explains that U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to deliver Palestine's speech before the United Nations confirms this bias and expresses the consistent U.S. policy of hostility to the Arab nation, its causes, and interests.

AL-THAWRAH explains that old and modern U.S. history is rich in such stands hostile to the Arab nation. Now, the U.S. stand on the Palestine question—land, people, revolution, uprising, and the PLO—is characterized by absolute negativism and blind rancor.

The paper also deals with the U.S. role in Lebanon, along with the Zionists and Hafiz al-Asad, in liquidating the Palestinian presence and denying all Palestinian human, natural, and political rights inside and outside the camps. It also deals with the U.S. stand on the popular uprising, which has been the most rancorous and hostile, whether through attempts to contain and finish off the uprising, justifications for the savage Zionist repression of the uprising's heroes, or instigation of the escalation and expansion of this repression.

AL-THAWRAH says: We have found nothing in modern U.S. political history apart from continued support for the Zionist entity and its aggresive course, racist policies, and organized terrorism. The United States has even declared the establishment of a strategic alliance with this entity, turning it into a forward base to threaten pan-Arab security.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says we should realize the meaning of promoting the U.S.-Zionist relationship to the level of partnership and the exchange of services, interests, and tasks both in our region and in the world at large.

Jet Hijacked in USSR; Flown to Ben-Gurion Airport

Hijackers Surrender to IDF

TA0212155188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1636 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The hijacking of the Soviet plane is over. Some 10 minutes ago, the five hijackers—four men and a woman—gave themselves up to IDF forces at Ben-Gurion Airport.

USSR Asks for Extradition

TA0212151188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1455 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Soviet authorities have officially called on Israel to extradite the hijackers of the Soviet plane after it lands in Israel so that they can be put on trial, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports. The hijackers are apparently criminals. A senior diplomatic source appealed to Israel to extradite the hijackers. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that police forces at Ben-Gurion Airport have completed their reinforcements. The police affairs minister and chief of staff are at the airport. The defense minister, senior IDF officers, and Transport Minister Hayim Corfu are also there. The chief of staff has taken over command of the landing and everything else linked to the hijacked Soviet plane.

Officials Agree To Extradition

TA0212151088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1515 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The defense minister and the chief of staff have responded positively to the Soviet request to permit the aircraft to land in Israel and to extradite the hijackers.

Bar-Lev: 'Thieves' Not Zionists

TA0212155188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1650 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by Moti Amir at Ben-Gurion Airport—live]

[Text] [Amir] Mr Police Affairs Minister, the aircraft landed some 20 minutes ago. What is the current situation?

[Bar-Lev] These people were armed. They handed over their weapons. They also carried rubles and all sorts of valuables. The police will investigate what brought them here.

[Amir] Did they identify themselves? Were they Jews or non-Jews? Who are they?

[Bar-Lev] They did not identify themselves, but I do not think they came here for Zionist reasons. They are most likely thieves who ran away from the USSR, and took the vehicle—the plane, that is—and the bags with the stolen goods.

[Amir] How much was there?

[Bar-Lev] I do not know. All that will become clear. They only left the plane some 20 minutes ago.

[Amir] Do they have any demands or they did they just give themselves up?

[Bar-Lev] So far there has been nothing.

[Amir] What do you think will happen to the rubles they brought with them?

[Bar-Lev] I do not know. Everything will become clear.

Alignment, Agudat Yisra'el Sign 'Final' Agreement

TA0112154088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] A short while ago in the foreign minister's office, Agudat Yisra'el and the Alignment signed an agreement to form a joint coalition. Mr Peres added his signature to those of Minister Weizman and Knesset Member [MK] Edri, thus giving the agreement final ratification.

The agreement stipulates that the Labor Party Central Committee will be requested within 3 months to approve the imposition of a compulsory unanimous vote in support of the amendment to the Who Is a Jew law. It also gives Agudat Yisra'el the Construction and Housing as well as the Labor and Social Affairs portfolios, the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee, and the position of deputy minister in charge of the Education Ministry's independent education system.

Upon leaving the meeting, MK Porush told our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz that he prefers the Alignment's promise to consider the Who Is a Jew issue to the Likud's signed and countersigned undertaking to amend the law.

Our correspondent notes that Minister Sharon had requested a meeting with the Agudat Yisra'el Central Committee which is convening now, but the party leaders replied that as far as they are concerned, the agreement with Labor is final.

Agudat Yisra'el Warned on Siding With Labor
TA0112172888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon tonight warned Agudat Yisra'el's Central Committee Executive now convening in Jerusalem that the Likud will vote unanimously against amending the Law of Return if Agudat joins the Alignment as it pledged to do in the agreement the parties signed today.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the prime minister conveyed a message to Agudat Yisra'el through Minister Sharon saying that only the Likud can carry out the Law of Return amendment. In the course of the Executive meeting, several rabbis expressed views against the alliance with Labor. Earlier, however, the party had announced that the agreement with the Alignment is final as far as Agudat Yisra'el is concerned.

Agudat Yisra'el Discusses Agreement With Labor
TA0212061188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el's Council of Torah Sages will decide on the ratification of the agreement between their Knesset members [MK] and the Labor Party at the beginning of next week. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that upon request of MK Porush of the Aguda, all the Labor ministers will convene today to ratify the agreement.

During a meeting last night with Labor Party leaders, MK's Porush and Verdiger said that the remarks by Ministers Shahal, Ya'aqobi, and Tzur to the Voice of Israel against the agreement has caused the rabbis to reconsider their stand and they are requiring Labor to prove that all of its ministers support the agreement. Ministers Peres, Rabin, and Weizman, and MK Edri, participated in last night's meeting with Agudat Yisra'el MK's.

Minister Rabin told our correspondent that he still believes that a broad-based government centered on the Labor and Likud Parties should be formed. He is, however, willing to continue negotiating with the ultraorthodox parties to examine the possibility of reaching an understanding with them.

Minister Peres said that the agreement with Agudat Yisra'el still exists. Earlier, Agudat Yisra'el Central Committee refused to ratify the agreement with the Labor Party. It has been decided that all the views presented at the meeting, including those opposing the agreement, will be brought to the Council of Torah Sages who will meet at the beginning of next week.

Labor Party leaders also met yesterday with leaders of Degel Hatora. Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, the party's head, said that he tends to support Shim'on Peres, but added that the president of the State should see to it that a government centered on Labor and Likud is formed. Rabbi Ravitz expressed support for the idea of a rotation. He noted that no agreement has been signed between his party and the Labor Party, and added that the final position of Degel Hatora will be decided by Monday, when a new round of discussions with the president begins.

Results of Labor Party Bureau Vote Analyzed
TA0112123288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat]

[Text] The Labor Party has rebelled against its leaders. This means that the party still exists.

This, in a nutshell, is the significance of the Labor Party Bureau vote against joining a Shamir government under the present conditions. The decision was made against the position of Peres and Rabin, the duo which until yesterday had been thought unbeatable.

Rabin, who led the move and who declared he was willing to fold the party's political banner in order to give the Likud a chance, received a sharper blow than did Peres. The latter, to judge by his remarks and appearance on television's Moqed interview program yesterday, has already recovered. It seems as though he has been freed of a great burden.

Let me repeat what I have often said before: From the beginning Peres was more willing to go into opposition than was Rabin. As it was whispered in Labor Party corridors yesterday, it is no mere coincidence that Peres' associates were among those who led the anti-Shamir front and who carried out yesterday's move.

A party which rebels against its leaders in such an important issue can in the near future also shake itself completely free of these leaders by demanding to replace them. This will not happen overnight, nor will it be simple. Peres and Rabin are still very powerful. One cannot mistake, however, the direction in which the wind is currently blowing in the Labor Party.

There is somebody who currently needs divine mercy even more than Peres and Rabin, and that is Yitzhaq Shamir, who has done everything he could to form a broad-based government. Even if he manages to overcome the difficulties in trying to meet the demands of his religious and right-wing parties—and there is no certainty that he will overcome these serious difficulties—he still faces tough confrontations with Sharon, who will not forego the Defense portfolio easily, and David Levi, who is eager to receive the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

Shamir will have to work overtime if he wants to present his narrow government early next week. Only then, if he succeeds in forming a government, will his real internal and foreign problems begin.

Editorial Views Future U.S. Administration

TA0112134288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 p A14

[Editorial: "A Sign for the Future"]

[Text] Future U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that had it been up to him to decide on PLO leader's entry visa, which was to allow him to address the UN General Assembly, he would not have decided in the negative.

Mr Baker, President-elect George Bush's designated secretary of state, did not have to exert himself by stating that he would have acted differently from the man currently serving in that capacity, George Shultz. The fact that he chose to underline the fact serves as an indicator of his approach specifically and of the Bush Administration in general.

It was no accident that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir termed Shultz' Reagan-backed decision to prevent 'Arafat's entry to the United Nations a Hanukkah miracle. Shultz' decision is not only contrary to his successor's opinion, it also contravenes the agreement between the United States and the United Nations. This is why Shultz has been criticized not only by PLO fans, but also by persons unrelated to the PLO. Although Baker's sympathy for the PLO has not been proved yet, it has been proved that he is not as sentimental as George Shultz or Ronald Reagan.

Baker carries no traumatic World War II memories, nor did he have a one of his best students killed in one of Israel's wars. He is a serious, efficient, cold, and sensible man. Therefore, his thinking and decisions will be cold, almost detached.

His reaction to Shultz' decision does not portend well for the future. The Bush Administration's approach to issues concerning the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not resemble that of the Reagan administration and it can be assumed that the approach will not be better from Israel's point of view.

Irangate's 'Amiram Nir Dies in Plane Crash

TA0212055888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] 'Amiram Nir, former adviser to Prime Ministers Peres and Shamir on terrorism has died in a plane crash in Mexico. The crash took place several hundred kilometers north of Mexico City. The pilot attempted to make an emergency landing when he discovered a malfunction in the engine. 'Amiram Nir and the pilot were killed and two other passengers were injured. 'Amiram Nir was 38.

Prior to being taken on by Peres as an advisor, he served as military adviser to Israel Television. Several years ago, his name was brought up in connection with the Irangate affair.

Mexico Asked To Investigate Sabotage in Nir Death

TA0212165088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to Mexico has appealed to the authorities there to investigate whether the plane in which 'Amiram Nir, the prime minister's former adviser on terrorism, was flying crashed in an accident or as a result of sabotage.

Our Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, who spoke to Israeli Embassy personnel, reported that the possibility of sabotage was totally discounted. An investigation by embassy personnel showed that the Cessna plane made an emergency landing in harsh weather conditions, turning on its side at the end of the landing. The bodies of 'Amiram Nir and the pilot were not burned; the experts, therefore, determined that neither a bomb nor any other form of sabotage was involved.

It appears that 'Amiram Nir entered Mexico on his Israeli passport but rented the aircraft under the name of Pat Weber. His body will soon be flown to New York and from there to London on its way to Israel.

Foreign Ministry Lauds Moscow Emigration Move

TA0212104288 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 2 Dec 88 p 2

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—The foreign ministry yesterday praised Moscow for lifting restrictions that had prevented 120 Soviet Jews from emigrating on grounds they knew state secrets—and for its decision to stop jamming Kol [Voice of] Israel broadcasts.

An Israeli Soviet Jewry activist said the Kremlin had lifted the restrictions and had already issued exit visas to 15 of the 120.

"We congratulate them (the Soviet Union) on these new facts. We hope it will improve relations between Israel and the Soviet Union," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said he believed the measures were intended to transform the Kremlin's image in the West as having harsh policies against Jews and to facilitate a role for the Soviet Union in future negotiations for Middle East peace. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

IDF Fire Injures 6 Arabs

TA0112185788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Four Nabulus residents were wounded by IDF gunfire during riots today. Youths hurled stones at an IDF unit in the Nabulus casbah, the soldiers opened fire, and as said, four rioters were injured.

A 14-year-old youth from the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was wounded this afternoon by a plastic bullet fired by IDF soldiers. In another incident reported by Arab sources to our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv, a 15-year-old was injured in the Al-Burayj refugee camp as IDF forces dispersed rioters.

A No 900 bus driving from Tel Aviv to Haifa was stoned tonight near Caesarea. No one was hurt, but the bus's front windshield was damaged. Our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel notes that the bus driver said the stones came from the trees near the road. Hadera police launched searches, but no suspects have been apprehended so far.

1 Killed in Janin District

TA0112203188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpt] A 17-year-old youth was killed this afternoon by IDF gunfire in the village of Qaffin in the Janin District. Our correspondent Arye Gus was informed by military sources that in the course of IDF operations, young men threw stones and firebombs at soldiers who shot at the assailants, killing one of them.

During searches in the village of Tammun two residents, one of them a 10-year-old child, were injured. [passage omitted]

More on 1 Dec Incidents

TA0212121488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 88 p 24

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Hospitals in Nabulus admitted 10 Palestinians wounded in and around the city. At the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' camp, five people were wounded, including a man seriously hurt by a gunshot in his back, and another, wounded in the eye by a rubber bullet, who was transferred to St. John's Opthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

Protests erupted in several locations in Nabulus after tax officials accompanied by troops raided stores in the city. Two people were wounded.

At Tammun, a 10-year-old boy and 18-year-old were both wounded in the hand. A 16-year-old was shot in the stomach during clashes at Tubas.

At 'Idnah, near Hebron, three persons were wounded in fierce clashes during an army raid on Wednesday. Military sources said villagers attacked troops with clubs, iron bars and stones. Villagers said soldiers who arrived in helicopters made arrests, forced shopkeepers to open stores and pay outstanding taxes, and served demolition notices against 17 homes allegedly built without a permit. Villagers charged that shopkeepers who did not open had their shopfronts damaged, and an electricity pylon was uprooted. The army denied any such action had been taken.

A woman was injured by beating during clashes with troops at the Balatah refugee camp. Residents of Iraq Burin, near Nabulus, reported a raid on the village, in which five army vehicles were preceded by a car with West Bank plates whose passengers wore keffiyehs. Clashes were also reported at Hawwara. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, troops shot and injured seven persons, including a 9 [and] ½ year-old boy, and broke the back of an inmate in the Ansar II jail there, Palestinian sources said. The IDF spokesman was aware of only one gunshot injury and denied that a prisoner was injured.

According to a local reporter, an IDF soldier shot and critically wounded the boy, Muhammad Abu-Dan of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp. The boy was reported to have been hit as he crossed the street on his way home from school, during a clash nearby between soldiers and local youths. He was shot in the chest and later evacuated to the Barzilai Hospital in Ashqelon.

An 18-year-old at the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp was wounded in the leg.

Troops shot and wounded three people in the Jabalyah refugee camp, one in Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighbourhood and a 14-year-old boy in the Shatti refugee camp. Clashes were reported in other parts of the Strip.

Shifa' Hospital sources said 23-year-old Raf'at Lafi arrived there yesterday with a broken spine and may be paralysed. Lafi, a resident of Rafah, was held in the Ansar II lockup in Gaza City and told doctors that soldiers had beaten him up.

The IDF spokesman denied the story. He said that in the past week only one person—with a different name—was taken out of that jail for medical examination, but he was taken to the Barzilai Hospital in Ashqelon and has since been returned.

Meanwhile, secular Gazans seemed to be facing new Islamic religious pressure. At about 11 o'clock yesterday, six masked men turned up at a video shop on the main 'Omar al-Mukhat Road in Gaza City, ordered everybody out and threw a fire bomb in.

A member of Moshav Ganne Tal in Gush Qatif, Avi Talman, 36, was lightly wounded in the head yesterday when his car was stoned. He was released from Soroka Hospital after treatment. [passage omitted]

A petrol bomb was thrown into the courtyard of a Jewish home near Herod's Gate in the Old City, but there were no casualties.

PFLP 'Rebels' Plan Terror Campaign

TA0212114588 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 2 Dec 88 p 2

["Exclusive" Depth News Service report by Diane Shalem]

[Excerpt] Nabulus—PFLP groups which no longer accept George Habash as leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine are planning a terror campaign in Israel and the territories in order to rekindle the intifada [uprising], security sources told THE NATION yesterday.

The PFLP cells, based mainly in the Nabulus and Ramallah areas, announced earlier this week that Habash had lost his mandate as leader of the second largest Palestinian organization because he acquiesced in the Palestine National Council's ostensible acceptance of UN resolutions 181, 242 and 338.

It is believed that the PFLP rebels may carry out an operation in the next few days, the sources said.

The cells will also attempt to orchestrate violent demonstrations in the main West Bank towns.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, worried about the diplomatic repercussions of a new terrorist campaign, has ordered Fatah activists in the territories to do everything possible to torpedo the PFLP rebel's plan.

A bloody attack would be a serious setback in 'Arafat's so-far successful diplomatic offensive.

'Arafat also urged his activists to steer a careful course and to seek accommodation with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Moslem fundamentalists and the Palestinian Communists, in order to reunify the intifada's command, which has been paralyzed over the last two weeks. [passage omitted]

Peace Now Group Seeks Meeting With PNC Figures

TA0112113488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Andy Court]

[Excerpt] Peace Now activists are seeking to arrange meetings abroad with members of the Palestine National Council, one of the movement's founders said last night.

Yuli Tamir, the moderator of a Peace Now forum held in Jerusalem last night, told THE JERUSALEM POST that the first meeting was tentatively planned for late January.

The meetings would probably take place in Europe and America. They are just one aspect of the movement's decision 10 days ago to call, for the time, for direct talks with the PLO, Tamir said.

Peace Now launched its "Talk Peace with the PLO Now" campaign in Jerusalem last night. Two Palestinian academics and three Israelis addressed a crowd of about 300 in the Knesset Towers Hotel.

The speakers all agreed that the recent PNC declarations in Algiers showed new signs of moderation and pragmatism which should be encouraged by Israeli citizens even if Israeli officials dismissed their significance.

"The Palestinian people have basically developed, through the uprising in general and the PNC meeting in particular, a message of peace," said Bi'r Zayt University professor Sari Nusaybah. "You never found in the leaflets (of the uprising's underground leadership) any reference to the destruction of Israel, any reference to throwing Jews into the sea." [passage omitted]

Thousands Protest Ultraorthodox Draft Dodgers

TA3011065488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpts] In Tel Aviv last night, thousands attended the demonstration aimed at protesting draft dodging among ultraorthodox yeshiva students and exemptions granted in coalition agreements in the past. Reporters Le'a Zinder was at the demonstration:

[Begin Zinder recording] Last night's demonstration was attended by dozens of high-ranking reserve army officers, including two former chiefs of staff, Tzvi Tzur and Rafa'el Eytan. The crowd was addressed by reserve army generals, by a soldier who lost his legs in the Lebanese war, and by an 18-year-old about to be drafted. Their call was the same—for more equitable distribution of the burden of defending the country. Reserve General Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said he was speaking for all those, but above for all those ultraorthodox who had done their army service. We can no longer tolerate a situation in which a group of over 18,000 citizens enjoy the privileges of that citizenship, but none of the obligations, he said. Res. Gen. Shlomo Lahat, mayor of Tel Aviv and a member of the Likud, said he could not tolerate the situation in which ultraorthodox Knesset Members—who have never served in the army and who represent thousands of draft dodgers—may be called upon to decide whether or not Israel goes to war. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In all, two former chiefs of staff, 26 major generals, 48 brigadier generals, 71 colonels, and 121 lieutenant colonels signed the petition protesting draft evasion.

Demjanjuk Lawyer in Hospital After Acid Attack
TA0112183188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Yoram Sheftel, the defense counsel for Nazi war criminal 'Ivan The Terrible', John Demjanjuk, is being kept overnight in hospital after an acid attack this afternoon. A Holocaust survivor threw acid in Sheftel's face at the funeral in Jerusalem of former district court judge Dov Eytan. [passage omitted]

REUTER Cited on Jordanian Trade Deficit
JN2711115088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The General Statistics Department of the Jordanian Ministry of Finance announced in Amman today that there has been a 20 percent increase in the deficit in the Jordanian balance of trade during the first 6 months of this year. The department added that this deficit increased to $685 million compared to $581 during the same period last year. These figures were reported by REUTER from Amman.

Jerusalem Arabic on Jordanian 'Economic Crisis'
JN2911153488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 29 Nov 88

[From the "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" feature by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The topic of the hour is the economic crisis which is currently plaguing Jordan and which has led to a decline in the exchange rate of the dinar. The following are some givens about the crisis, about its reasons and causes:

The foreign debts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan amount to $7 billion. In general, these debts are not large. However, they are not small for a small country like Jordan.

Why have the debts to be paid and serviced by Jordan accumulated despite the fact that Jordan has over a period of many years enjoyed a stable and strong economic situation? Half of these debts have accumulated because of the failure of the Arab states to honor their financial commitments toward Jordan. Only Saudi Arabia honored its commitments in full.

It is worth recalling that the Arab states pledged at the Baghdad summit of 1978 to annually pay an amount of $1,250 million to Jordan over a 10-year period, considering that it is a confrontation state. According to this, Jordan should have received $12.5 billion during the past 10-year period. However, it only received almost half of this amount.

The manifestations of the economic crisis came to the fore conspicuously in the years 1987-88, when they created an accumulated gap in the balance of payments caused by the unprecedented decline in the foreign currency reserves.

Besides the failure of the Arab states to honor their financial commitments, thousands of Jordanian workers who used to work in the Gulf states lost their jobs because of the reduction in the implementation of construction projects there. This unemployment is an important factor in the shortage of the foreign currencies available at the Jordanian treasury; not to mention that these workers returned to Jordan and became a burden on it because of their joblessness.

Finally, Libya heads the Arab states which have not honored their commitments toward Jordan. Moreover, Jordan is indebted to Libya to an amount of $3 million. However, Libya refuses to even consider this debt as cancelled.

Egyptian Bank To Cut Contacts With Counterparts
TA0112150188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] The Egyptian Suez Canal Bank has informed Israel of its intention to stop commercial contacts with Israeli banks.

MA'ARIV's correspondent has learned that the bank's announcement was delivered recently to Israeli authorities; the reason given was the fear that ties with Israeli banks were harming its connections with Arab banks. The Israeli elements kept the Egyptian bank's announcement secret.

Israel employs the services of the Suez Canal Bank for its commercial transactions with Egypt. The procedures on this issue are anchored in the agreements between the two countries; there are documents proving this.

The cessation of contacts would make it impossible to use the bank to arrange import and export transactions, and would mean the closure of credit lines.

Senior elements informed of the bank's move estimate that the transfer of Israel's accounts to another bank would constitute a capitulation to the Arab boycott, in contravention of the contracts between Israel and Egypt.

Record Foreign Currency Reserves Drop

TA0112124388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves dropped this month by $837 million and now total $4,175 million. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that it was an unprecedented fall, and was due to the public's purchase of foreign currency in anticipation of a devaluation. The Bank of Israel said there has been a slowdown in foreign currency purchases in recent days. Last month, the government absorbed 300 million shekels.

3 Egyptian Workers Granted Work Permits

TA0212055488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Three Egyptian stonecutters have been granted work permits by the Employment Service. It is the first time that Egyptian workers have been granted official permits to work here.

They are to take part in the building of a new mosque in the village of Al-Tira in the Triangle.

Czechoslovak Theater Troupe To Visit

TA2911185988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Yet another Eastern Bloc country, Czechoslovakia, is resuming cultural relations with Israel and is sending the Lanterna Magica theater troupe for a tour here. The theater will stage a show combining the screening of movies and acting by mimes on stage. In anticipation of the Czechoslovak theater's tour in Israel several Israeli journalists have been invited to visit Prague.

King Husayn Seeks Egyptian-Syrian Summit

JN0112161088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that King Husayn of Jordan is seeking to hold a summit between Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Amman in December after the Jordanian mediation between Damascus and Cairo has reached an advanced stage.

Informed diplomatic sources in Amman and Beirut have told AL-ITTIHAD that the visit which the Jordanian king will pay to Cairo within the next 48 hours falls within the framework of these efforts and this will be followed by a visit by the king to Damascus next week. Other diplomatic sources in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD that from this summit, Jordan aims to prepare the atmosphere for Egypt's participation in the next Arab summit and Iraq supports Jordanian efforts in this regard.

King Husayn To Mediate Between Syria, Iraq

JN2611175488 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 24 Nov 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Damascus—Informed diplomatic sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that King Husayn's visit to Damascus the day before yesterday [22 November] concentrated on discussing important issues, the most important of which are relations between Damascus and Baghdad. These sources added that the Jordanian efforts aim to hold a meeting between Syrian and Iraqi officials to calm the situation between the two countries. The sources expected the Jordanian king to pay a quick visit to Baghdad and meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Among other issues that were dealt with during King Husayn's talks in Damascus was the consequences of the proclamation of the establishment of the Palestinian state. Damascus has affirmed its stand on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also asserted that the Lebanese situation has created different stands on the Arab level and that Damascus does not object to any Arab initiative to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2811160788 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Amman, 28 Nov (PETRA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has paid tribute to the sincere and courageous efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn on the Arab scene to close ranks and support common Arab action.

In a statement to PETRA upon his arrival in Amman at noon today on a short working visit, he said that his majesty's efforts come at a time when Arab countries have an urgent need to achieve reunion, consolidate rapprochement, and strengthen the Arab ability to take the initiative.

He said that his visit to Jordan, which comes within his consultations regarding the Lebanese crisis, will provide him with the opportunity to discuss with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri the dimensions of the U.S. decision to prevent PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from addressing the UN General Assembly. He said he will also discuss with Al-Masri the initiative by Jordanian diplomacy in coordination with all Arab countries, which aims at putting the international community before its responsibility toward this flagrant violation of the Headquarters Agreement between the United States and the United Nations. This is a blow to the march of peace, he said

Mr Klibi was received at Amman airport by a number of department chiefs at the Foreign Ministry.

Visits With King Husayn

JN2811222088 Amman PETRA-JNA in English 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Amman, Nov 28 (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The king listened to a briefing by Klibi on his recent contacts with Arab countries to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers council to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Talks covered joint Arab efforts initiated by Jordan's diplomatic move to transfer the U.N. General Assembly debate on the Palestinian problem from New York to Geneva, the U.N. European headquarters. The Arab move followed U.S. refusal to grant Palestine Liberation Organization PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to address the General Assembly on the Palestine issue. [passage omitted]

Departs 29 Nov

JN2911123988 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Arab League secretary general, Chedli Klibi, left Amman this morning at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Jordan. During his stay in Amman, Mr Klibi was received in audience by his majesty the king. He briefed his majesty on the outcome of his recent contacts concerning the convening of an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Lebanese crisis.

UN Envoy Urges U.S. To Reverse Visa Decision

JN0112193688 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] 'Abdallah Salah, Jordanian permanent representative at the United Nations, has said that the U.S. decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to participate in the UN General Assembly proceedings and present the Palestinian viewpoint is regrettable and must be denounced.

In a speech delivered before the UN General Assembly on behalf of the Arab group in Jordan's capacity as chairman of the group for December, the Jordanian representative said: According to the headquarters agreement, the host country is legally obliged to grant an entry visa to its territory to 'Arafat to enable him to carry out the official mission determined in the visa application; that is, to take part in the UN General Assembly's 43d session.

The Jordanian representative asserted that like all other UN General Assembly members and observers, the PLO has the right to form its delegation to participate in the UN General Assembly proceedings as it sees fit without any intervention by anyone. He also said: It is very regrettable that the U.S. decision in question is not connected with its relations with the PLO—or, to be be more precise, with the nonexistence of relations with it—but is connected with the PLO's relation to the United Nations, which is supposed to have an independent status and an international dignity respected by all.

The Jordanian permanent representative concluded the speech that he made on behalf of the Arab group by calling on the United States to reconsider and reverse its decision.

Al-Masri Sends Message on UN Palestinian Day

JN0112112088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Dec 88 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] New York (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the desire of the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people shows the importance that the United Nations attaches to the Palestine question and helps focus world attention on the need to bring about a just solution to this question, based on international legitimacy and the principle of a peoples' right to self-determination.

This came in a message Tuesday night to the UN celebration of this occassion on behalf of the Islamic countries in his capacity as chairman of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference. The message was read by 'Abdallah Salah, Jordanian permanent representative at the United Nations.

The foreign minister said: We are confident that this official occasion, which we celebrate on the international level, will transcend the purpose of expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people to the call for a deep world commitment to intensified action to enable the Palestinian people to enjoy their legitimate rights, formost of which are repatriation, self-determination, and sovereignty over their land. This is a requirement for peace and security in the Middle East, a service to world peace, and a victory for law, justice, and human dignity. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri stressed that the comprehensive uprising of the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territories, both through shifting the balance of power in favor of the Palestinians and through the Jordanian Government's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, which provided the uprising with momentum by highlighting the Palestinian entity from a political mechanism, succeeded for the first time in creating the possibility of establishing an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

He said: The declaration of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil inspired the uprising and followed the requirements of the Jordanian step of disengaging legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. The declaration was also made in light of our awareness and that of everybody else that military occupation neither terminates the original sovereignty nor creates a new sovereignty. This declaration represents a historic new turning point in the course of the Palestinian issue. Together with the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, this declaration constitutes a tangible, undeniable reality. It gives the Palestinian struggle a new political weight. [passage omitted]

He said that the Islamic countries, which supported all the resolutions adopted by the PNC during its 13-15 November 1988 session in Algiers, hope that these resolutions will be actually realized through action to terminate the Israeli occupation and end the tragedy of the Palestinian people. He added: We feel that acceptance by the representatives of the Palestinian people of Security Council Resolution No 242 constitutes a positive, qualitative step aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East through meeting the demands of the rejectionist parties and obtaining their acceptance of a Middle East peace conference.

This conference is to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent member states, within an international framework and under the auspices of the United Nations. The conference should convene on the bases of Security Council Resolution No 242 and the guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This constitutes the correct step toward placing the peace efforts in their correct framework to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace

that takes into consideration the interests and legitimate rights of all parties to the conflict and guarantees the security, stability, and prosperity of their peoples.

AL-RA'Y Columnist Says Visa Refusal 'Fabricated'
JN2811162488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Nov 88 pp 20, 18

["From the Present" column by Ibrahim Abu Nab: "The Last Shot!"]

[Text] Now that George Shultz has tried to prevent Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the United Nations to deliver the "very realistic" Palestine speech to the international community, an observer first of all can only recall these Koranic verses: "But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth and ye know not."

By viewing Shultz' fabricated matter within its right framework and within the context of developments of the Palestine question and of the world's crisis in the Middle East, an observer will find that this matter is actually very good and in the benefit of the speech which Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will deliver before the UN General Assembly. This is because this matter will provide an opportunity for 'Arafat to turn the tables against George Shultz and his Jewish followers in the U.S. Department of State and against Israel and the pro-Israeli approach of U.S. policy in general. What Shultz did has attracted immense sympathy among Palestinians and has shed light on the Palestinians so they will say their word through Abu 'Ammar as it has never been said before.

Given that Westerners cite Prophet Muhammad as saying: "If Muhammad does not go to the mountain then let the mountain come to Muhammad", it is not necessary for 'Arafat to go to the United Nations nor is it necessary for UN members to go to Geneva or Vienna to listen to 'Arafat's speech because modern media technology can bring the United Nations to 'Arafat's residence in Tunis or Baghdad so he will address the United Nations via satellites. Hence, 'Arafat's face will fill the large screen and all the small screens in the world and everyone will listen to Palestine's speech.

Now, what can people understand from this event and what can 'Arafat tell them? No doubt, those who have followed up Shultz' relationship with the Middle East since its very beginning and who know his mood must have realized that Shultz' misdeed was an act of spite [preceding word in English] and had no connection with the high concept of politics known as statesmanship! [preceding word in English]. As some observers say, Shultz' misdeed was due to the total failure of his diplomatic activity in the Middle East. There is no need to go into details about this failure or about its circumstances and reasons because AL-RA'Y's correspondent in Washington gave sufficient details and affirmed this aspect of the secretary of state's character, noting that the latter became "angry" with Lebanon due to failure of the 17 May 1973 agreement which he worked out. Consequently, Shultz "gave the green light to destroy and smash Lebanon as well as the possibilities of restoring its social and political unity". He also stopped criticizing Israel's criminal actions in Lebanon.

However, an AL-RA'Y correspondent in Washington failed to mention that Shultz' spite was not only directed against Palestinians and Arabs but also against both his Republican Party and George Bush's coming administration. The AL-RA'Y correspondent asserted that all decisionmakers of the U.S. Administration, beginning with President Reagan and including his adviser for national security affairs and his defense secretary and the chief of his intelligence services collectively and individually agreed to the issuance of an entry visa for 'Arafat but George Shultz proved adamant.

It seems that Shultz' spite is also directed against John Sununu, chief of staff of George Bush's coming administration, who was the only U.S. state governor who in 1986 [as published] refused to acquit Zionism of being a form of racism as was approved by the United Nations! By accusing 'Arafat of having a connection with terrorism, George Shultz seeks to fabricate something parallel to accusing Zionism of being a form of racism. It also seems that Shultz seeks to shackle the hand of the coming U.S. Administration and limit its political options in the Middle East.

The Arab observer does not rule out that Shultz' misdeed falls within this context. However, this misdeed will foil itself. Moreover, Palestinians can help Shultz avenge himself on himself so this misdeed will be like the last shot which the vanquished one fires to express his defeat!

'Arafat's appearance and speech before the United Nations are not a problem. The problem is what should be said. In this context, I recall what 'Arafat said before the UN General Assembly 14 years ago. At that time, the PLO chairman had two choices: Either address the New York Jews, the U.S. people, and Europe, demanding a Palestinian state based on UN partition Resolution No 181 of 1947, or demand the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their land and consider Zionism a form of racism as part of a strategy other than that which the PLO adopts now.

Also as I recall, the British delegation recommended that the opportunity should not be wasted and the first choice be adopted, utilizing the outcome of the October war which had erupted about 1 year previously. But Abu 'Ammar adopted the second choice based on UN Resolution No 2336 which provides for Palestinians' right to self-determination on their land. This time, there were two options as is known by readers of this column: Either to proclaim a Palestinian state in the occupied territories and put the United States and other countries to the test and before their responsibilities according to UN resolutions or to rely on the big powers' "good will"! It is not too late, however.

Withdrawal of U.S. Truce Observers Reported

NC0212124188 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] U.S. officers serving within the Israel-Lebanon UN Truce Supervision Organization [UNTSO] left for their country yesterday upon the official request of the United States. U.S. State Department Spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. State Department made this decision in view of the dangers facing them.

Al-Huss on 'Strange' U.S. Visa Decision

NC0112171988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has criticized the U.S. decision not to grant a visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat so that he may address the UN General Assembly. Dr al-Huss has cabled the following instructions to Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations:

We ask you to maintain full solidarity with the Arab delegations in whatever positions they adopt in response to the strange U.S. decision not to grant a visa to the PLO Executive Committee chairman so that he way address the UN General Assembly.

Winkler Urges Switzerland 'To Save His Life'

NC0212083188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0817 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] A letter signed by Peter Winkler, the International Red Cross official who is being held hostage, says that his Swiss citizenship is the reason for which he has been detained in Lebanon. Winkler has appealed to his country's government to save his life.

The handwritten letter, which was delivered to an international news agency in West Beirut today, says that Winkler was kidnapped because he is a Swiss citizen, and not because he is a representative of the Red Cross. The letter adds that his government knows what the kidnappers want and that it must cooperate to save his life.

Further on Winkler Letter

NC0212091588 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP)—An official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) kidnapped last month in south Lebanon said in a hand-written letter Friday that he was abducted because of his Swiss nationality.

"I am here for more than two weeks now, and maybe I will stay here for a very long time," Peter Winkler said in the signed letter received by a Western news agency here. The ICRC, contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, could not immediately authenticate the handwriting.

"I was kidnapped not as a Red Cross delegate but as a Swiss citizen," Mr Winkler said. "My government knows what my kidnappers want from it, and it has to cooperate in order to save my life."

'Awn Appoints Internal Security Forces Commander

NC0112172488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During his meeting today with senior officers of the internal security forces, General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, stated that Gendarmerie Commander Brigadier General Antoine Nasr has been appointed director general of the internal security forces in place of Major General 'Umar Makhzumi.

Further on Appointment

NC0112215088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Security sources have disclosed to the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY that the meeting held at the Internal Security Forces General Directorate under the chairmanship of General Michel 'Awn today was attended by some 70 internal security forces officers. The Muslim officers were absent in view of the continued pressure on them.

According to these sources, Gen 'Awn wished to visit the directorate's headquarters, although Major General 'Umar Makhzumi, director general of the internal security forces, has not yet visited B'abda. The sources noted that Gen 'Awn did not want to embarrass Makhzumi as he understands his situation. However, he asked the officers present at the meeting to inform the absent officers that they must see him before they report for duty, otherwise they will have to apply for long-term leave.

During their absence, Brigadier General Antoine Nasr will be charged with overseeing the work of the Internal Security Forces General Directorate instead of Maj Gen Makhzumi. Colonel Antoine Sa'adah will be charged with carrying out the duties of the Beirut police command in place of Brig Gen Qubrusli; Lieutenant Colonel Salim Milhimi will supervise the work of the judiciary police headquarters in lieu of Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, and Col Hatchiti will replace Col 'Abd al-Karim Miqdad as director of the security forces institute.

Meanwhile, according to the usual Syrian method, former minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi has paved the way for further partitionist steps by accusing Gen 'Awn of attempting to split the internal security forces in accordance with what he termed information he had received. Al-Rasi's stand came in a comment on Gen 'Awn's visit

to the internal security forces headquarters today, where he gave instructions that the security forces' work be carried out and their duties performed in a serious and correct manner. [passage omitted]

Appointments Reports 'Groundless'

NC0112183588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] A responsible source in the Ministry of Interior stated this evening that some media organs had carried reports that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, in his capacity as interior minister, had assigned a number of officers to assume new security tasks within the internal security forces. The source added that these reports are groundless, and said that the fact of the matter is that Gen 'Awn asked all officers to report for duty and carry out their responsibilities in full. Gen 'Awn also stated that the vacuum resulting from the absence from their workplaces of any security officials should be filled by their immediate assistants, the source stated.

Army Explains Decision To Close Museum Crossing

NC0212095288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0928 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] We have a fresh news report from the news desk. Informed sources have stated that the decision by the Army Command to close the Museum crossing point today was adopted after provocative actions there reached an indescribable degree. Military personnel and other employees working in the eastern area, officials, administrators, and lawyers, have been harassed whenever they crossed Al-'Ijjah checkpoint. The matter developed to the point that all or some of these individuals were occasionally prevented from passing through the checkpoint. Moreover, senior officials were prevented from traversing the crossing and were threatened.

This resulted in the paralysis of official departments and institutions. The banning of military personnel, officers, NCO's, and enlisted men from traversing the crossing further complicated the situation and heightened the negative character of the harassment.

The decision to close the crossing came as a necessary measure and will remain in effect until matters are remedied and full freedom of passage through the crossing point is restored.

This is the Voice of Lebanon.

Qabalan on Suburb Tension, Hostages Link

NC0112160288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Citing Hizballah sources, the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY says that Syria has managed to split this party and establish a special wing with direct links to Syria. This wing, led by security official 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah and Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, seeks to counter the Iranian wing led by the extremists. The agency adds that Syria may take control of the southern suburb at a later stage, through this wing. For their part, the extremists have demanded that the Syrian forces facilitate Hizballah's return to the South as a condition for settling the situation in the suburb.

In an exclusive interview with ARAB WORLD WEEKLY AGENCY, Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has noted that tension in the southern suburb will continue until the issue of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon has been resolved. If a political solution is not reached, he added, the Syrian forces will not be able to enter the southern suburb by force.

Shams al-Din Rules Out Early Hostage Release

NC0112230188 Paris AFP in English 2254 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec 1 (AFP)—An early release for Western Hostages in Lebanon is unlikely, one of the country's leading Shi'ites, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, said here Thursday.

Shaykh Shams al-Din, vice-president of the Shi'ite Superior Council, said the problem remained "very complicated, with no quick solutions on the cards."

He said there was no chance of hastening the release of the 14 Westerners while the Syrian Army was trying to stop clashes between rival Shi'ite militias in Beirut's southern suburbs.

A week of fighting between the pro-Syrian movement Amal and the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizballah ended on Monday, with a death toll of 39.

Shaykh Shams al-Din was to fly to Tehran on Friday for talks about the inter-Shi'ite fighting with Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The Shaykh also said he did not think the time was ripe for presidential elections in Lebanon.

Rival Christian and Moslem regimes have been set up in the wake of the parliament's failure to elect a president on September 23 to succeed Amin al-Jumayyil, who had come to the end of his term of office.

'Powerful' Car Bomb Explosion in West Beirut

NC0212060988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Dear listeners, we received the following security report a short time ago: It has been reported that a powerful explosion was heard at 0750 today. This was followed by the sound of gunfire.

It has been learned that the explosion resulted from the detonation of an explosive charge which had been placed inside a vehicle near the Al-Zuhayri gasoline station in Wata al-Musaytibah [in West Beirut]. We will supply you with sufficient details as soon as we receive them.

Blast Wounds 3, Causes Property Damage

NC0212061688 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0609 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] We learned a short time ago that, according to eyewitnesses, the explosion which was heard at 0750 today and which resulted from the detonation of an explosive charge inside a vehicle near the Al-Zuhayri gasoline station in Wata al-Musaytibah, caused injuries to three people and extensive property damage.

Amal on Hizballah Plans To Control West Beirut

NC0112221588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] At the end of its meeting today, the Amal Movement's Political Bureau declared that the movement had been in a legitimate self-defense position during the recent battles. The bureau noted that the instructions and directives of the movement's leaders stressed continual self-restraint. The leaders took the view that the task of ensuring security should be shouldered by the Syrian forces.

The political bureau went on to say that a month ago the movement had acquainted all political and security officials with plans drawn up by Hizballah to gain control of West Beirut by force, and that maps of military deployment had been placed at the disposal of the official security departments.

Hizballah on Recent Fighting, Birri Policy

NC0212075088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Hizballah Information Department has issued a statement on the recent incidents between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. The statement says: The struggling believers, the sons of the Hizballah nation, never imagined that they would be the object of an outrageous and malicious onslaught directed against their presence and designed to foil their resistance of the enemy. While continuously implanting fear in the hearts of its members, the present Amal leadership has sought to drag them into battles without achieving any political objective, except to reinforce its illusions of hegemony and its continued control of the people. Neither the Movement's members nor the Shi'ites at large have gained anything except losses.

The Hizballah Information Department statement continues: The Amal leadership thought that the United States had arranged a political solution to the crisis of Lebanon's sectarian system, and entertained the illusion that it would be given a big share if it proved its ability to strike at the Islamic resistance and abolish the Islamic presence that rejects a humiliating settlement with the Zionists or with the agent Maronite regime. For this reason, Amal created tension in the Al-Ghubayrah area and then transferred it to West Beirut under the illusion that it could succeed in swallowing up the Hizballah's sons there.

The statement points out that the aim of that eruption was to divert attention from the criminal assassination attempt against the Hizballah leaders in Al-Biqa'.

Commenting on Birri's accusation that Hizballah is guilty of assassinating three Amal officials, the statement says that this is nothing more than an obvious attempt to keep the Islamic scene in a state of eruption and to bypass all attempts to calm the situation. Birri's refusal to authorize a committee of scholars to examine the assassination file is an indication of his intention to escalate the situation.

In conclusion, the Hizballah Information Department statement emphasizes that Birri's policy of fragmentation will place all parties in great danger.

Birri Returns from Damascus Following Meeting

NC0212125988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri returned to Beirut from Damascus today after he and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, had held a round of talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam there.

Shaykh Shams al-Din, who left Damascus for Tehran today to discuss with Iranian officials the problem between Amal and Hizballah, noted that the talks with Khaddam dealt with all aspects of the Lebanese crisis as well as the election of a president of the Republic, in addition to the Amal-Hizballah conflict.

He said: We are trying to find a radical solution to this conflict which reflects the enormity of the political problems. He, however, did not explain the basis of such a solution.

President Reportedly To Restructure Government
JN0112192688 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Nov 88 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Damascus—Well-informed sources in the Syrian capital have stated that President al-Asad is on the verge of carrying out a major change in the Syrian Government's configuration.

The sources told AL-SIYASAH that under the new changes, the post of prime minister will be given to Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi, and only one vice president will be appointed instead of the present three. The sources added that President al-Asad will personally take charge of the Lebanese file instead of Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. [passage omitted]

The basic features of the changes Al-Asad intends to carry out can be summed up in the following points:

1. President al-Asad will personally assume responsibility for the Lebanese file instead of Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

2. The containment of the political state of affairs resulting from Syria's being distanced from the political moves that are under way in the Arab region. Al-Asad believes that this state of affairs can be remedied through two major steps: reconciliation with Egypt and recognition of the Palestinian state.

3. The cancellation of the three posts of vice president and the retention of only one.

4. The formation of a new government under Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, who has not carried out any political activities for the past few years.

AL-SIYASAH has learned that Al-Shihabi has set the following conditions for his assumption of the post of prime minister:

1. Giving him a free hand with respect to domestic and foreign policies.

2. Banning the security organs from interfering in the government's work. This was one of the reasons for the resignation of former Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ka n's government. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Meets Afghanistan's Kawiani
JN0112150088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah today received Najmuddin Kawiani, Politbureau member of the Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Grand National Assembly member, and Grand National Assembly foreign affairs chairman. The Afghan ambassador in Damascus was present. They discussed bilateral, especially parliamentary, ties and coordinating moves in the mutual interest of Syria and Afghanistan.

The People's Assembly speaker stressed Syria's constant position on the Afghan people and its appreciation for their struggle on behalf of Afghanistan's just causes.

Kawiani praised Syria's militant struggle for liberation under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and its determined opposition to hostile Zionist and reactionary schemes. He outlined the Afghan situation and emphasized the Afghan people's determination to stand up to their enemies in the interest of their aims of liberation and progress.

Ba'th Party Official Receives Jalal Talabani
JN2711171688 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1413 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 27 Nov (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Talks dealt with various developments in the Arab arena and the role of the Iraqi national opposition forces in confronting the regime which persecutes Iraqi citizens.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leave for USSR Talks in Saudi Arabia

BK0212094488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2 (AFP)—Afghan rebel alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani left here for Saudi Arabia on Friday [2 December] for the first substantive talks with Soviet officials, Afghan resistance sources said.

Mr. Rabbani, leader of the Peshawar-based seven-party mujahidin alliance, is heading a six-member delegation that is scheduled to meet Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov on Saturday, the sources said.

The talks had originally been expected to open Thursday in the Saudi Arabian cities of Jeddah or Riyadh but will now take place in Al-Ta'if beginning Saturday, they added. The two sides are expected to discuss the release of prisoners of war and other issues related to Afghan conflict, the sources said.

Mr. Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, will be leading the Kremlin delegation in his capacity as a deputy foreign minister, the sources said.

The mujahidin delegation includes Mr. Rabbani, leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami group, Sigbatullah Mujadeddi, head of the National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan, and 'Abdul Qadir Keryab, a representative of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, they said.

Ahmad Zia Mas'ud, Sa'id Lala and Ishaq of the Jamiyat-e Eslami are also accompanying their leader Mr. Rabbani, they added.

The talks would be the first substantive discussions between the opponents of the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul and Soviet officials since the Soviet Union entered Afghanistan in December 1979.

Moscow had previously refused to talk to the Afghan rebels saying the Kabul regime was the only appropriate party to talk to the mujahidin.

Some 50,000 Soviet soldiers still in Afghanistan must leave by February 15 under the Geneva accords signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by the Soviet Union and the United States in April.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned, Receives Strong Protest

LD0112192288 Kabul Domestic Service Dari 1600 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Information Department reports that at lunch time, the Pakistani charge d'affairs in Kabul was summoned to the Afghan Foreign Ministry and the following points were conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Department:

Despite repeated and strong protests to the Pakistani Government by the Afghan Government concerning the flagrant and repeated violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords, Afghan security authorities report that recently, a U.S. ship arrived in the port of Karachi and gave the Pakistani authorities new weapons—the long-range guns [name indistinct] type which has a range of 40 km—to be used by the Afghan opposition.

Also at 1040 hours, on 28 November 1988 a Pakistani military aircraft entered Afghan airspace at a speed of 720 km in the area of [placename indistinct] and returned after a 9-minute reconnaissance flight over the region of Spin Buldak, Qandahar Province, via the direction of [placename indistinct].

The Afghan Government conveys its strong protests to the Pakistani government concerning this violation by the Pakistani authorities of the Geneva accords and international norms and laws. It stresses that if these continued violations and provocative actions, which only aggravate the situation, do not stop, the responsibility of the consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Foreign Ministry Protests Attack on Relief Convoy

LD0112201588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued in Kabul—date not given]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in its effors aimed at the rehabilitation of refugees and displaced Afghan people, and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and in accordance with previous agreements reached with the relevant organs of the United Nations to provide humanitarian and economic assistance to all provinces of the country without (?personal or political) considerations, together the UNHCR department in Kabul and with UNICEF, made preparations for the immediate dispatch of material assistance to the Panjsher Valley.

Included in the supply of goods were chemical fertilizers, seeds, and medicine. These goods were [words indistinct] by 18 trucks together with vehicles belonging to the department, which flew United Nations flags, moved toward the panjsher Valley. Unfortunately, the convoy was ambushed at (Sayd Bashi) region, along the Kabul-Charikar road, by armed extremist groups belonging to the so-called Islamic Party of Gulbuddin. The extremists looted ten of the trucks and captured the head of the UNHCR in Kabul, [name indistinct], who was accompanying the convoy.

During the time when the UNHCR envoy was in the hands of the extremist Gulbuddin gang, the Afghan authorities made all-round efforts to rescue him, which

they did not publicize in advance, in order to prevent a threat to his life. After 4 days as a hostage, [name indistinct] was released, fortunately, on 30 November and returned to Kabul.

Recordings of radio traffic and other evidence collected by the security forces prove that during the capture of [name indistinct], the Gulbuddin extremist group was in regular contact with Peshawar and was receiving all its instructions from there. This incident is an open violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and of the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. It also poses a serious threat to the realization of the United Nations' reconstruction and economic programs to the country's damaged regions as a result of differences and contradictions between the extremist groups [words indistinct].

We condemn this bandit action by the armed extremists, and express serious concern about the repetition of such actions. So far as the Republic of Afghanistan is able, it will spare no efforts in meeting its pledges to the United Nations for the revival of the economy of regions which have suffered as a result of the imposed war and the rehabilitation of the refugees.

The minister of foreign affairs, 'Abdul Wakil, today sent messages to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the organizer of UN humanitarian assistance, His Excellency Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, and to the head of UNHCR [words indistinct]. In these messages, attention is drawn to the realization of the humanitarian and economic program of the United Nations and asks that the Goverment of Pakistan, which supports the armed extremist groups of Afghanistan, to observe fully its pledges in the Geneva accords and the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. [passage indistinct]

Najibullah Approves Laws on Self-Defense, Guards
LD0112073088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The Office of the President reports that the Law of Self Defense Groups, approved by the Milli Shura in 6 chapters consisting of 28 articles, has been approved by Najibullah in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Similarly, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has approved the Law of Revolutionary Guards, which has five chapters consisting of 32 articles and which was previously been passed by the Milli Shura, in line with Paragraph 2, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Rebel Group Vows Cooperation With Government
LD0112093288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] A 200-man-strong group of the armed opposition, headed by 'Alif Muhammad, abandoned armed activities in the dependencies of Jowzjan Province yesterday in support of the humane and peace-loving policy of national reconciliation of the Republic of Afghanistan. The group vowed cooperation in the restoration of peace and security in Jowzjan Province.

'Extremists' Crushed in Various Districts
LD0112210488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] BAKHTAR, quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, reports that as a result of an operation by the Armed Forces this morning in (Koz Konar) District, Nangarhar Province, seven extremists were crushed and eight others injured. During this operation an arms and ammunition depot was discovered and eliminated in Hesarak District of this province. The report adds that 20 surface-to-surface misiles, 39 mortars, a box of explosives, mines, a box of war heads, 2 plastic [words indistinct], and thousands of rounds of ammunition for various weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province, a number of extremists were eliminated; one recoilless gun and an arms and ammunition depot of the enemy were also destroyed. As a result of blows by the Armed Forces in the Jegdalek region, a number of warmongers, including an American adviser, were killed and six surface-to-surface missiles and a launcher unit were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of operations by the Armed Forces in Daman District, Qandahar Province, eight extremists were crushed and one enemy missile and a mortar were destroyed.

As a result of blows by the Armed Forces inflicted on the enemy in the Koran va Monjan region, Badakhshan Province, a number of warmongers were crushed. Two mortars, two DShK's, one recoilless gun, and a radio communication set were destroyed.

As a result of another operation by the Armed Forces yesterday in the Zebak region, Badakhshan Province, an enemy arms and ammunition convoy was destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of operations by the Armed Forces in Gardeyz, the capital of Paktia Province, 10 extremists were crushed and 2 others were arrested. Three machineguns and a communications set were seized.

Five extremists were killed in Kabul Province as a result of action by the Armed Forces. One recoilless gun and an enemy arms and ammunition depot were also destroyed.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that disagreements between the extremists have increased. As a result, dozens of members of opposing enemy groups were killed. For example, as a result of clashes between extremists attached to the Gulbuddin and Rabbani gangs

in Mir Bacheh Kowt District, Kabul Province, and in Shindand District, Herat Province, 35 men from both sides were killed and dozens of others were injured.

Yesterday, the criminal extremists supported by the United States and Pakistan directed heavy weapons fire on residential areas in Khowst Major District, (Qargha'i) District, and Sorkhakan village of Laghman Province. As a result of this criminal action, one of our compatriots was martyred in Laghman Province and two women were injured in Khowst Major District.

Bangladesh

Ershad Extends Felicitations to Pakistan's Bhutto

BK0212063988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Mrs Benazir Bhutto on her appointment as the prime minister of Pakistan. In a message to Mrs Benazir Bhutto last night, the president expressed the confidence that under her dynamic leadership the people of Pakistan will continue their forward march toward further progress and prosperity.

President Ershad also expressed the hope that during her tenure of office, the excellent relations between the two governments and the people based on shared history, (?faith), and culture will be further consolidated to their mutual benefit. The president also wished the long life of Mrs Benazir Bhutto and the continued stability and progress of the fraternal people of Pakistan.

A message received in Dhaka from the (?Foreign Office) last night said President Ershad was the first head of state to congratulate Mrs Benazir Bhutto on her becoming the prime minister of Pakistan. President Ershad's picture was prominently displayed on Pakistan television while the congratulatory message was read in its news bulletin. The message further said Radio Pakistan also broadcast the president's message widely in its news bulletin.

India

Gandhi Speaks on Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka

BK0112165088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that with the installation of an elected government in Islamabad, India and Pakistan will be able to work on normalizing relations. In an interview to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Mr Rajiv Gandhi hoped that the SAARC summit in Islamabad at the end of this month will give an opportunity to expand cooperation among member nations.

About his forthcoming visit to China, Mr Gandhi said the main aim is to improve mutual regard and understanding which in the long run will pave the way for a peaceful solution of the border issue.

About Sri Lanka, the prime minister commended the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] for providing security to the people belonging to various communities. He said despite threats from extremist elements, the response of the Tamil people in the recent northeast provincial council election has been encouraging.

Congratulates Bhutto

BK0212130088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has offered to work closely with the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, for removing the irritants which he said have needlessly vitiated relations between the two countries. In a letter to Mrs Bhutto on her assuming the office of the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will set an example to the world of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation. He said India has always valued its relations with Pakistan and our people share with it a strong bond of friendship.

Mr Gandhi said affinities of history, culture, language, and religion bind us together. It is important that we build good relations between our governments also commensurate with the affection that our peoples have for one another.

Referring to the Simla Agreement, the prime minister said it is the basis for building together a relationship of mutual trust and friendship to promote peace and cooperation between the two countries in our time, as also for generations to come. He assured Mrs Benazir Bhutto that India regards the unity and integrity of Pakistan as vital for stability and progress in South Asia. Mr Gandhi said: We trust that the Pakistan Government will reciprocate these sentiments.

The prime minister added that the people of India join him in sending her their sincerest felicitations. He referred to the forthcoming SAARC summit in Islamabad toward the end of this month. He said he is delighted at the opportunity this will afford him of meeting her personally.

Lok Sabha Welcomes 'Democracy in Pakistan'

BK0212091888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha today welcomed the ushering in of democracy in Pakistan after 11 long years and extended its good wishes to the people there. Amidst thumping of desks, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said India has always wanted cordial relations with Pakistan. The people of the two countries are bound by close links and

want to live in peace. The issue was raised during zero hour by Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz of National Conference, who said democratic forces have won in Pakistan despite constraints.

Pakistani Military Attache Persona Non Grata

BK0112130688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The government has declared the military attache of the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi, Brigadier Z.I. Abbasi, persona non grata. The Pakistan Embassy has also been told that another official, Mr Mohammad Ashraf Khatib, is no longer acceptable. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, gave this information in a suo moto statement in both houses of parliament today. He said Pakistan Embassy has been requested to ensure that the two leave India within 24 hours. The two Pakistani nationals were detected yesterday evening while they were receiving a secret defense document in return for a payment of 50,000 rupees from an Indian contact at a Delhi hotel. The minister informed the house that a case has been registered under the Official Secrets Act.

Attache Leaves for Home

BK0112162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] The Pakistan military attache in New Delhi, Brigadier Abbasi, and another official, Mr Mohammad Ashraf Khatib, have left for home. The Indian Government had declared the brigadier persona non grata and conveyed to the Pakistan authorities that Mr Khatib was no longer acceptable. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the Pakistani authorities had agreed to India's request that they leave the country within 24 hours.

Answering queries, the spokesman said security of the country is important, but relations with Pakistan are equally important especially at a time when a new government was taking over in that country. Earlier in day, the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told both houses of parliament about the government's decision. The two Pakistani nationals were detected yesterday evening while they were receiving a secret defense document in return for payment of 50,000 rupees from an Indian contact in Delhi.

Supreme Court Stays Execution of Gandhi Assassins

BK0112163888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has stayed the execution of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh, convicts in the Indira Gandhi assassination case, till Tuesday. In a late evening special sitting today, the bench, presided over by the chief justice, Mr R.S. Pathak, heard petitions on behalf of the convicts. The petitions were made by the counsel for the convicts against the Delhi high court order earlier in the day today dismissing a review plea against the rejection for mercy petition by the president. The petitions will now come up for hearing before a bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday. Earlier this afternoon, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition seeking stay of the execution of the two convicts.

Iran

Khomeyni on Free Expression of Various Factions

WA0118523488 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] News Department—The imam of the nation received a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, a member of the Imam's Office, asking him for his exalted views concerning the differences of opinion that exist among the intellectual factions loyal to the revolution. In reply, he enumerated important matters which actually reflect the brotherhood of the intellectual factions loyal to the revolution. The text of Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His blessed excellency, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Emam Khomeyni, may God extend his shadow:

For the spread of Islam and its sincere revival, and with the hope of a long life with health and complete welfare for that blessed being. First of all, I thank Almighty God for his boundless kindness and the blessing of His Holiness, may God preserve him and our souls be sacrificed to him, that he has given me the the good fortune to serve you and the great blessing of being in your sacred presence. Acknowledging fully that I have not yet grasped this exalted talent, I beseech God to bless me with the ability to understand and give thanks for this great blessing in practice and to put my life and death in the service of advancing your lofty goals.

Your Great Holiness, you have always endured our shortcomings and faults with magnanimity and generosity. God willing, you will also pardon this new annoyance. The important matter that has given rise to this letter is that since the beginning of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran while I have been in service I have witnessed the rise and fall of many and various intellectual, ideological, and political trends. Praise God, the deviating and infidel trends have been pushed aside, but two ideological and political trends, both of which are aligned with the revolution and defenders of Islam and which have many supporters and respectable leaders, are today competing more seriously.

This rivalry is not purely in the realm of theory, it has arisen in all political, social and economic areas and the more it continues the more the rivalries will intensify. In reality, like it or not, conflicts are increasing, and apart

from that the consequences and effects this is bringing in the country have, at this time, produced a kind of severe perplexity and confusion among the supporters and members of both groups. I am among these people, and I do not know what to do and what my responsibilities are. What adds to this confusion is that on the one hand I see that implementation of the general, political, and economic ideas of either of these two trends in the country and in the revolution will end in results considered inadvisable by the other side.

It is for this very reason that these rivalries have become more intense and serious in the elections for the Majles and the government and the like. On the other hand, in their general positions and on the principles of the revolution such as the defense of Islam and the oppressed and the struggle against East and West, their positions are so close and actually overlapping that there is nothing there that could be called a disagreement. Moreover, we all know that most of the leaders and responsible persons in these two trends are combative figures and prominent people whose greatest indication of credibility is their long-standing relationship with Your Excellency in gaining academic, ethical, and political blessings.

Each one of them have had some part in the revolution, and more important than any of these matters, I see them receiving Your Excellency's sanction, for most individuals in these two trends have received your support and blessing. Whenever one of these two trends have been confirmed, a short time later the other has been confirmed as well. There are many such examples. For example, when those in the Teachers' Society or the Propaganda Organization are supported, those in the Propaganda Office are confirmed as well; on one hand the respected Council of Guardians and on the other hand the Expediency and Discernment Council; on one hand the the Tehran Society of Struggling Clergy and on the other hand the Struggling Clergy; on one side Mr Mohtashemi and the Prime Minister and from the other Mr Nateq and Mr Azari.

For Your Excellency, who is much greater in the pursuit of goals than our thoughts and talents, the issue is clear, but unfortunately we have not been able to understand and solve it. Because I attribute no validity or value to my thoughts and ideas without confirmation from the chief theologian and am in dire need of Your Excellency's leadership and guidance, I feel that this issue is a reality faced by most of the people, particularly the passionate and revolutionary youth of the nation, the universities and the seminaries, and that this matter could be solved only with Your Exalted Excellency's views and guidance. The matter is in your hands.

[Signed] Mohammad 'Ali Ansari Kermani

[Dated] 7/29/67 [21 October 1988]

Text of Letter From the Imam of the Nation

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Ansari, may your life be prolonged:

I studied your letter. You have outlined an issue with a long answer, but because I care about you and regard you as a religious and knowledgeable man, albeit somewhat sensitive, and I am always grateful to you for your unstinting kindness towards me, I will make a few remarks by way of advice to you and those like you, who are not small in number. Islam's great books of theology are full of differences of opinion, taste, and interpretation in various military, cultural, political, economic, and devotional areas, to the point that on issues where consensus has been claimed there is a voice or voices of opposition, and even on matters of consensus there may be a voice of opposition, not to mention the conflict between reporting the news and principles.

As these differences were confined in the past to the domains of study, debate, and school and were only recorded in scholarly books in Arabic, the masses have been utterly unaware of them, or if they were aware of them they had no incentive to pursue them. Now could one imagine that as theologians have had disagreements, they could have acted, God forbid, against truth and religion? Never. Today, however, to our great happiness, with the advent of the Islamic revolution the remarks of the theologians and experts have been brought to television, radio, and the newspapers because there is a practical need for these discussions and issues.

Examples include matters concerning property and related issues; land and its distribution; public bounty and wealth; the complex matters of money; foreign exchange and banking; taxation, in domestic and foreign trade, and in agricultural leases; partnerships; rentals and mortgages; penalties and fines under secular law; cultural issues as well as dealing with art in general, such as photography, painting, sculpture, music, theater, cinema, calligraphy, and other areas; preservation of the environment; protection of nature; preventing the cutting of trees even near homes and on private properties; issues of food and drink; prevention of births where necessary or designating intervals between births; resolving medical problems; the question of human and animal transplants; subterranean and surface national mines; changes in what is religiously allowed and not allowed, as well as expanding positions; certain judicial decrees in specific situations in matters of law and international law and their application to Islamic jurisprudence; women's constructive role in Islamic society and their destructive role in corrupt and non-Islamic societies; the limits of individual and social freedom; infidelity and polytheism, and those who adhere to infidelity and polytheism; ways to perform religious obligations in the air, in outer space, and when moving with or against the direction of the earth's movement or at a greater speed than its speed, or when in vertical ascent or when in

weightless conditions [as published]; and most important, the institutionalization and designation of rule by the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] in government and in society.

All these matters are among the thousands of problems besetting the people and the government. They differ with one another in their views. If some of these problems did not arise in the past or did not have positions, the theologians of today must think about them. Therefore, in an Islamic government the door to learned interpretation must always be open. The nature of the revolution and the government constantly requires that the interpretations of theologians must always be freely expressed in various areas, even if they are in opposition to one another. No one has the right or ability to prevent this.

The important thing is proper understanding on the part of the government and society, on the basis of which the Islamic government will be able to plan in the interest of Muslims, and unity of method and action is necessary. Here, the religious interpretation of the seminaries is not sufficient. Even if an individual is the greatest scholar of theology, if he cannot recognize the interests of society or if he cannot distinguish the sound and useful people from the unsound people, and if in general he lacks correct vision and the decision-making ability in social and political areas, this individual is not capable of judicious religious interpretation in social and government affairs and cannot lead society.

You must note, however, that so long as the differences of opinion are confined to the above issues, there is no threat to the revolution. If differences arise over fundamental issues and matters of principle, it will weaken the government. It is clear that if there are differences between the existing individuals and factions affiliated with the revolution, they are purely political, even if they take an ideological form, because everyone shares the same principles. This is why I confirm them. They are loyal to Islam, the Koran, and the revolution, and their hearts burn for the nation and the people. Each one has a plan and an idea for the growth of Islam and for service to Muslims which, in his own mind, will lead to salvation. The decisive majority of each faction want their country to be independent.

Both factions want to reduce the dominance and the evil of the leeches in the government, the bazaar, and the streets. Both want to have honorable employees and workers, pious farmers, honest businessmen in the bazaars and streets, and a clean and sound life. Both want theft and bribery removed from government and private organizations. Both want Islamic Iran to grow economically in such a way that it will make the markets of the world its own. Both want the cultural and academic situation in Iran to be such that students and researchers from around the world will flock to Iran's educational, academic, and artistic centers. Both want Islam to become a major power in the world.

Therefore, what is the basis for the dispute? The basis for the dispute is that both believe their way will lead to achieving all these things. However, both must be fully aware that positions taken must be such that while they protect Islamic principles for all time, they also preserve revolutionary anger and hatred for themselves and the people against Western capitalism, led by world-devouring America, and against international communism and socialism, led by the aggressor Soviet Union. Both trends must make the utmost effort to see that there is not the least deviation from the Islamic Republic's policy of neither East nor West, and if there is any such deviation they must rectify this with the sword of Islamic justice.

Both groups must realize that they have common enemies who will show mercy to neither of them. Both factions must, with absolute comraderie, keep the Islamic nation aware of world-devouring America and the criminal Soviet Union. Both factions must warn the people that it is right that treacherous America should be their number one enemy, but their dear children were martyred by Soviet bombs and missiles. Neither faction should disregard the trickery of these two imperialist demons, and both must realize that America and the Soviet Union are thirsty for the blood of Islam and their independence. O God, be my witness that I have said what I was to say to both factions, let them know their position.

Of course, there is another important matter that could cause a dispute, from which we must all seek refuge with God, and that is the love of the earthly self. This knows no distinction between this faction or that one, the president, the speaker of the Majles and the prime minister, a Majles deputy, a minister, a judge, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Council of Guardians, the Propaganda Organization, the Propaganda Office, military, non-military, clerical and non-clerical, student, non-student, man or woman. There is only one way to fight it, and that is self-discipline. Let us move on.

If the gentlemen were to look at problems from the point of view that everyone wants to support the government and Islam, a great deal of the difficulty and confusion would be eliminated. This does not mean, however, that every person exclusively follows one faction. I have spoken from the perspective that constructive criticism does not mean opposition, and that new organization does not mean disagreement. Appropriate and constructive criticism will bring growth to society. If criticism is right it will guide both factions. No one should consider himself absolute and exempt from criticism. Of course, criticism is not an ideological confrontation.

If, God forbid, a person or a group should entertain thoughts of removing or destroying others and puts the interest of his faction and line above that of the revolution, he will certainly strike a blow against Islam and the revolution before he strikes his rival or rivals. One of the things that surely pleases Almighty God is bringing

hearts together, making efforts to erase animosity and bringing opinions on service close together. One must avoid intermediaries whose only purpose is to sow pessimism concerning the opposite faction.

You have so many common enemies that you must stand against them with all your might. Of course, you know that the government, the Majles, and the government's high officials have never violated principles and have never deviated from them. It is clear to me that in both factions there is belief and love for God and service to the people. With the exchange of constructive ideas and thoughts, the rivalries must be cleansed of contamination, deviation, excesses, and waste.

Again I recommend that in the period of reconstruction and building, our nation is in need of reflection, unity, and brotherhood. God will bless all the people whose hearts beat for the revival of the pure Islam of Mohammad, peace be upon him, and for the destruction of Americanized Islam, and He will protect you and everyone in the shelter of His blessings and support. God willing you will be among the protectors of Islam and the deprived people.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 8/10/67 [1 November 1988]

Ahmad Khomeyni Requests Imam Khomeyni's Letters
LD0212060988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, issued a statemnent in which he thanked various strata of people, in particular the esteemed 'ulema, for sending documents and manuscripts pertaining to his eminence the imam, may his shadow continue, to Imam Khomeyni's Secretariat.

Once again he asked all personalities, clerics, and various strata of people to send all messages, decrees, and manuscripts written by Imam to Jamaran, the Imam's Secretariat. This is aimed at safe-keeping, printing, and publishing all of the imam's letters, messages, and decrees from the postrevolutionary and prerevolutionary eras.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons
LD0212121088 Tehran IRNA in English 1131 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Friday said the Constitution was the "embodiment of the revolution" but changes were needed to clarify "problems and ambiguities" particularly in the areas of law and policy making.

"The first chapters of the Constitution concerning basic rights are excellent," he told Tehran's Friday prayers congregation. But "in the section about the country's administrative organization, be it the executive branch or the judiciary, there are of course some problems and ambiguities that will be corrected one day," he said.

He was referring to a group of Majles representatives who wrote to Imam Khomeyni questioning the right of the High Council in Charge of Matters of Expedience, consisting of heads of all state branches as well as other officials, to legislate.

Last week the imam replied that the council was formed because the war had made it necessary to make swift decisions and he hoped in future such matters would be in lines with the Constitution. The president said the problem stemmed from the Consitution because it had not made it clear how diffences between the Majles and the Council of Guardians over a bill should be finally settled the High Council was the answer, he believed.

"The Veliyat-e Faqih (leader) [rule of the jurisconsult] must break the deadlock and open the way for a solution, such as in the case of the High Council in Charge of Matters of Expedience... laws cannot be left hanging in the air. A (final) judgement is necessary," said the president. "This isn't incompatible with the Constitution. It confirms and complements it," he stressed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, whose second term in office ends next year, said the lack of a clear policy-making body was another defect in the Constitution. In socialist, one-party states the party was in charge of policy and in Western democracies the elected head of state. "In our society it doesn't work that way. We don't have such a policy making center—that is the Constitution has not specified it," he said, indicating that the High Council, after the imam, was the country's highest policy-making body as well.

Khamene'i did not say how or when the Constitution would be reformed. But he stressed that it "was a very big phenonmenon" which needed preservation. "If it comes apart, the society will certainly face confusion," he added.

Elsewhere, the president repeated Iran's stand on the declaration of an independent Palestinian state. "We do not recognize it. We believe it is a great act of treason against all Muslims."

"Our nation and other freedom-loving nations in the world and even the Palestinian nation itself do not accept such a disgraceful agreement," Khamene'i said.

In all previous stages of the Palestinians' struggle, the liberation of Palestine has never been ignored, Khamene'i reminded, adding even those politicians who did nothing more than chant slogans never recognized Israel.

Forty years on, the PNC recognized Israel's right to exist. "But what they actually did was to give away three quarters of Palestine to Israel and the rest, only in words, they kept for themselves."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference
NC0112191488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1815 GMT 1 Dec 88

[News conference with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majles speaker and acting commander in chief, with domestic and foreign correspondents in Tehran on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] [(Baudet)] Mr President, my name is (Rene Baudet) of LE SOLEIL, a French-language newspaper in Quebec, Canada. My question is this: If the letter of President, of former President, Carter to Imam Khomeyni had compromised or created a new delay in the normalization with the United States? [Preceding question in English, with following Persian translation: I am from LE SOLEIL newspaper of Quebec, Canada. I would like to know whether Carter's letter to Imam Khomeyni is a compromise, a door toward the establishment of relations with the United States?]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, this was without precedent. The text was the same as you heard and was broadcast. There was no precedent because there was no prior basis for this letter.

[(Burkhardt)] My name is (Christian Burkhardt) from the REUTERS news agency. I would like to know what is the position of Iran on the hostages in Lebanon. As you know, Terry Waite is a British churchman and you are a churchman too. Do you think that Mr Waite should be freed first before the other hostages? [preceding question in English followed by Persian translation]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not know. You should ask one of the hostage-takers. We once told the archbishop of Canterbury, who had written a letter, that if Britain is prepared to use its influence with the Christians of Lebanon to release our hostages there, we are prepared to reciprocate and to assist in saving the British hostages. The archbishop has not taken any serious steps so far, apparently. If he has, we do not know anything about it. He has only written letters and said that they are trying. If Britain or the United States is serious about helping to release our hostages, we too will do what we can. But apparently they are not very serious about this.

[(Bud)] (Marcel Bud), German radio and television. Your Excellency mentioned the fate of the Palestinians. At the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, the Palestinians accepted UN Resolution Nos 242 and 338. This means they indirectly recognize the state of Israel and its right to exist within safe and secure borders. What is the position of Iran towards this new policy by the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat? [preceding question in English followed by Persian translation]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not oppose the formation of a Palestinian government. But we do not agree that the land of Palestine should be non-Palestinian. When Palestine is a free country, when all its people can participate in the formation of its government, and when the Palestinian refugees are allowed to return there, then the government of Palestine will be Palestinian. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Arabs, non-Arabs, and all who live there should participate. There is no need for us to call the government an Israeli government.

[Unidentified correspondent] What steps does Iran intend to carry out to improve its relations with neighboring Arab countries, and what do you expect from these countries in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have announced and stated our view that we want to solve the problems that we had with our neighbors in the southern part of the Persian Gulf. Most of the problems related to the war. Now that the war is ending, we do not have any major problems with them. Goodneighborliness should be the objective of both sides and of all sides. We do not expect anything from them. Of course, we had our complaints during the war because some of them supported Iraq. Now that the war has ended, there are no such difficulties, and there is no obstacle to expanding relations with them. As far as OPEC is concerned, their position was bad, and this led to a reduction in the price of oil. Fortunately, this problem was also eliminate recently.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am from (Maiz) newspaper of Japan. Prime Minister Takeshita is to visit the Middle East area. I do not know when he will be coming or if he will come or not. Many officials from various countries are coming to Iran, including FRG Foreign Minister Genscher. The French foreign minister is to come to assist your country in its reconstruction program. I regret that the prime minister of Japan is not coming here. Would you like him to come? Would you urge him to visit this area? This is my first question. My second question is on the Iranian-Japanese petrochemical project, which is a symbol of strong and close ties between the two countries. Because of the bombing of this petrochemical complex, the Japanese company Mitsubishi recalled its workers from there. You intend to recommence this project. How do you assess the future of this project and the two countries' economic relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As far as the Japanese prime minister's visit is concerned, if he wishes to come to Iran, we will welcome him. We have sincere and acceptable longstanding relations with Japan. As for the Iranian-Japanese petrochemical plant, a Japanese delegation came and studied this. They returned without stating their view. A group of our experts is to go to Japan soon, where talks are to be held. At any rate, we are determined

to construct the plant, to continue the construction, to reconstruct it, and to achieve an outcome. The definite outcome will be clarified in the talks that are to be held in Japan soon.

[Unidentifired correspondent] I am from Germany's DIE WELT newspaper. Can the Islamic Republic of Iran gain world credibility for itself, while maintaining its independence?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We can undoubtedly preserve our independence and we have shown during the past decade that no threat against the revolution is effective. As for world credibility, it depends from which angle you regard it. We think that one of the countries in this world which is truly independent today is the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is not under the domination of any foreign country, it lives by thinking of its people, and it has propounded specific and progressive ideals for the people of the world, and especially for the Muslims. We hope that in the future, with the cooperation of the Muslims of the world, we can create an Islamic movement that can expand and be influential in the Islamic world.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question presented by Persian interpreter] I am from Japan's XINHUA news agency [as heard]. I have heard that you want to set aside the severe measures that applied at the beginning of the revolution. I saw an Iranian woman walking in the street without a chador or long coat, and no one stopped her. I have even heard that women singers have also participated in programs in some places. This is a new phenomenon and shows that your culture is becoming more open. Will you encourage freedom of this kind in the future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From the very beginning it was not intended to inflict illogical pressures. In the atmosphere of revolution, some undirected steps may take place. This may occur in the future too. As for the women, our position is clear. Islam prescribes a certain form of dress for them. They should observe the minimum of this form of dress. As for the chador, this is not compulsory and was not so from the beginning. As you see on our Voice and Vision, the women come without a chador and broadcast the news and participate in other programs. But if they want to do unrestrained and immoral things, as happens in some other countries, we will prevent them.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am a freelance reporter from Germany. Can you confirm that direct talks between the United States and Iran took place in August in Damascus and that the U.S. representative was Mr [name indistinct] and that Iran's representative was Mr Sharif Mo'ayeri?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, this is completely untrue. We have not yet in any way had direct and face-to-face talks with the United States, in Damascus or anywhere else—except for The Hague where U.S. and Iranian officials are negotiating on legal affairs. Of course, the Americans have sent us messages via various channels—through governments and individuals—that they want to start talks on the commencement of relations. We have answered that as long as you have this hostile policy against the revolution, we are not prepared to talk with you in any way. First, you should prove by your deeds that you have no hostility; then we will see what will happen.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am from Germany's ZDF television. My question is related to the previous one. Would one of the signs that the United States has given up its hostile policy toward Iran be the unfreezing of Iran's assets in the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, this would be one of the signs. The Americans have—without any acceptable legal right—frozen our assets there for more than 10 years now. The most recent step was taken by their president, Mr Reagan, some days ago, in the last days of his political life, by extending the freeze on our assets for another year.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am from German television. The war resulted in limitations being imposed on the Iranian people's political freedoms. There is now talk about these political freedoms and the freedom to form parties. When do you think these freedoms will be fully established? What reforms do you have in mind for postwar needs as far as development and reconstruction are concerned, and as far as the creation of motives for the participation of the people in this reconstruction are concerned?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As far as political freedoms are concerned, our Constitution and the Majles law has declared political parties to be free. The people can have parties and parties can participate in elections. During the war, too; if one is logcal, one can see that the only country which fully preserved its parliamentary system and its free elections in wartime was our revolution. The freedom of elections in Iran is very clear and people can vote for anyone they want.

As for reconstruction, we should do many things in the fields of agriculture and energy, in the expansion of the oil, gas, petrochemical industries, nuclear energy industries—this is something which particularly concerns the Germans—and in steel. These things are among our priorities. The people's participation in economic affairs will be encouraged. We intend to create wider scope, both in commerce, and in production, and as far as the purchase of shares by the people and independent participation in projects through investment are concerned.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am from ANATOLIA news agency. Iran is expanding its relations with the West and with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf. However, Iran's relations with Turkey are encountering

problems with the expulsion of diplomats by both countries. How much damage has this done to ties between the two countries and how do you assess the future of Iranian-Turkish relations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our relations with Turkey are sincere. Throughout the war we had the best of relations. An incident like the recent one cannot greatly affect the strong ties between us. Of course, it was clarified for us during this issue that the Turkish Government gave real support to fugitive Iranian terrorists. This was contrary to our expectations. It became clear that they are very active in Turkey. We hope that Turkey's officials will realize that it is not worth marring the relations between the people of Iran and Turkey for the sake of a few fugitive terrorists.

[Unidentified correspondent] (SANKI) newspaper from Japan. Mr Speaker, political parties will be free to operate. Will this include the Communist Party too? [preceding question in English followed by Persian translation]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think that if the Communist Party wants to operate with a slogan directed against God, no. It will not be permitted in Iran. But if the communists want to be active here as far as their economic philosophy is concerned, then we do not see any obstacle to this. Under our Contitution and our other laws, we cannot allow the right to make propaganda against God in Iran.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Speaker, would you comment on your evaluation of the recent OPEC meeting decision? My second question is: Under the reconstruction period, is there a possibility that the Iranian Government will borrow some money from foreign bankers? [Preceding question in English with following Persian translation: I am from (HANG ZHUAN) newspaper. I would like you to assess the OPEC decision. In the country's reconstruction, is it possible that Iran will borrow money from foreign banks?]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are satisfied with the OPEC decision. We have preserved our quota, that is 14 and some percent of the OPEC total. Of course, Iraq's share was increased in comparison to the past. But this was granted by the Arab countries. We cannot ask them why they gave their quota to Iraq. This does not make any difference because we do not intend to renew the war. it does not make any difference to us if it is Iraq, Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia that is exporting oil. The fact that quotas were limited so that oil prices will be preserved and a correct price for oil obtained was a positive step. The drop in oil prices was harmful for everyone—for the oil-producing countries and even for the industrial consumer countries—because it resulted in stagnation and world industries lost customers.

As for loans from foreign banks, we have not yet decided anything. Of course, we are certainly ready to use foreign exchange reserves outside Iran. We are considering ways to do it—either in the form of long-term credits by governments, on buy-back [preceding expression in English] or other terms—which will help to expand the country's infrastructural projects, the implementation of important main projects, the reactivation of our existing factories, and other fields. Indeed, we held talks with the Germans today and if these arrangements are finalized, they may be applied with other countries too.

[Interpreter] Before I translate, Your Excellency, the German delegation wants to go to the airport and they have asked to be excused.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That is all right. I know they have to go.

[Interpreter] Okay, German delegation. [preceding words in English]

[Unidentified correspondent] My last question is: After the talks you had with the Germans, are you optimistic, or is there a problem as far as Iranian-German relations are concerned?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have not been informed of the final outcome of the talks yet. I do not think that any problems arose in our talks with Mr Genscher. I believe the talks were satisfactory to both sides.

[German delegation] Thank you very much. [preceding words in English]

[Interpreter] Thank you very much. [preceding words in English]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Goodbye, everyone.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Denies Execution of Rebels

LD0212111788 Tehran IRNA in English
0923 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—Claims that thousands of political prisoners have been executed in recent months are nothing but propaganda aimed at covering an internal crisis facing the Mojahedin-e Khalq (monafeqin) Organization [MKO], Majles speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

He said "this false, strange propaganda" campaign by the MKO in the West follows the defeat of its forces in July when the Baghdad-based group invaded western Iran.

"They are trying to justify their losses during the Mersad operation (by claiming) that these individuals (MKO members) have been executed in Iran. Their aim is to get out of the dead end," he said.

The Majles speaker was speaking in a meeting Thursday with the deputy information minister along with a number of ministry officials in charge of urban security.

During the Mersad operation several thousand members of the MKO were killed or wounded. Their plan was to capture Bakhtaran as the first stage of a "march to Tehran", according to confessions by captured members and seized documents.

The speaker's comments were a direct response to the group's latest accusation that thousands had been executed since the ceasefire with Iraq came into effect on 20 August.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said one of the "very important" responsibilities of the Information Ministry was to confront the causes of public dissatisfaction.

"Of course some of the dissatisfactions are from the problems of the revolution, war and shortages," he said but added that government places that do administrative and service work which cause public discontent should be "firmly dealt with."

"If the people see that with your efforts the problems facing them in life are solved, then their image of intelligence will change and they must not think you want to solve problems by suppression. Suppression is special for those who cannot be reformed."

He added: "With the exception of traitors, other human beings should see you as a source for protection."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Parade of Basij Units

LD0112185488 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Regular and volunteer forces should be on maximum guard so as to nip in the bud any future aggression, said the Majles speaker said today.

"However, no country would ever dare to initiate a war against Islamic Iran," hoped Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He also underlined the need for continuous training of Basij units and said following the end of the imposed war, the country has a good opportunity for reorganizing its forces the first time so since the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran (1979).

"Military forces should take the most advantage of this grand opportunity," he stressed.

The acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces was addressing Basiji forces after watching a parade of model Basiji mechanized units in front of the Majles (parliament) on the sixth day of Basij week.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Reply to Carter Analyzed

LD0212055888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, by sending an open letter to Carter has brought exchanges with the White House to a new stage. In this letter he tried to soften the hearts of the Americans by cooperating over the Western Lebanese hostages and free himself from the (?hazards) resulting from the remarks made by Khomeyni. In response to Carter's letter, Khomeyni said that relations with the United States are like that between a wolf and a lamb. In his reply, Hashemi-Rafsanjani used diplomatic language as only he can. He made the White House officials understand that the instructions of the imam—who wants to distance himself from the rekindled flames of open relations with the United States—should not be taken seriously. He said that they should have confidence in him [Hashemi-Rafsanjani], and that he intends to establish relations with the United States, even with all the oppressive implications of relations between the wolf and the lamb.

The news of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's open letter to Carter followed the announcement of the execution of Najafabadi and a substantial number of Montazeri's and Mehdi Hashemi's colleagues and was announced at the same time as Genscher arrived in Tehran. Last year, Mehdi Hashemi and a number of his companions were executed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani's clique due to the exposure of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's secret relations with the White House, which acquired fame as the Irangate disgrace.

ETTELA'AT on Implications of Carter Letter

NC0112190088 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Look at His Hands..."]

[Excerpts] As you are all aware, the Imam's Office received a letter attributed to Jimmy Carter. It is addressed to "Ayatollah Khomeyni," and Jimmy Carter has endeavored to convey the impression that Iran wishes to resume relations with the United States. While expressing his desire for the establishment of relations, he described the issue of the American hostages as the impediment to this! [passage omitted]

If, as the experts say, this letter was written and dispatched by Carter, it seems to be an attempt by the Democrats—especially those whose hands are still stained by past events and who are still recoiling from the bitter taste of defeat and disgrace in three consecutive presidential elections—to try to salvage some of their credibility and prestige. They are the ones who are being blamed and held responsible by the American public for the historic humiliation and disgrace which the Americans suffered in the Iran-America affair.

As a matter of fact, this opinion is justified if we consider internal rivalry in the United States as the reason. However, from another point of view, and at second glance, the matter can be seen differently. We cannot attribute all the recent events to a particular political party. It is the U.S. Administration that is resorting to these steps for particular purposes. This is not the work of one special party. We can mention these objectives in the context of Iran's resumption of relations with France and Great Britain—this has had the result of making the Americans' mouths water as well!

There seems to be another reason: It is possible that in this manner they are trying to lay a trap to take revenge for the McFarlane incident. In a tit-for-tat move, they may be trying to shatter the sanctity of the revolution and, in doing so, make the imam the target. [passage omitted]

A bird once said to its offspring: Do not look at the eyes of the hunter; he may be shedding tears, but this is because of the extreme cold. Look at his hands, which are dripping with blood!

Soviet TV Broadcasts Call to Prayers

LD0112203588 Tehran IRNA in English
1823 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Dec. 1, IRNA—For the first time in living memory the 'azan' or the Islamic call for the daily prayers was heard to boom from Communist Russia.

Last Tuesday, Baku television broadcast 'Azan' and screened a film on congregational prayers in one of the mosques in Soviet Astara, across the Iranian border in Muslim populated Soviet Azerbaijan.

Soviet T.V. monitored in the northern province of Gilan also interviewed a local prayer leader and displayed shots of exteriors and interiors of the elegantly decorated mosques dotting Muslim populated southern Soviet Union.

Soviet officials are said to be reviewing the cause of Muslim disturbances in Azerbaijan over the past week. "Azerbaijanis are reputed both for their great patience and great wrath," a provincial official said on the T.V. In his native Azeri the local Turkish dialect also spoken in Iranian Azarbayjan, with whom the Soviet side has deep-rooted historical, religious and cultural affinity.

Informed political sources believe that Soviets are trying to portray the Muslim disturbances as 'minor ethnic' disputes between Muslims and Christians inhabiting neighbouring Armenia, over the Karabakh region.

Recently Soviet officials have called for limited 'political and social freedom' in Muslim-populated areas. For example they have allowed Sheykh ol-Eslam Allah Shakur, dean of a theological school in Baku, to expand religious and political activities in these areas. A decree was also passed allowing ethnic Russians in Azerbaijan to learn Azeri and enroll in Muslim schools of Azerbaijan.

Persian, which was once widely spoken in the region is again being taught in Baku schools and provincial officials intend to increase the number of such schools, but they have achieved little success so far due to the shortage of Persian teachers.

BBC 'Interference' Endangers Ties With Britain

LD0212091688 Tehran IRNA in English
0737 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] London, Dec. 2, IRNA—The BBC has tried to interfere in Iranian affairs by resurrecting a platform on its domestic radio for one of the children of the deposed shah in calling for preparations for an "armed struggle" and repeating the publicity on world service.

The attempted interference, even though the Pahlavi Dynasty is defunct and has no support in Iran, is thought to be the first from the state-controlled radio since Tehran accepted to restore relations with London and is seen as only provoking new strains between the countries.

Under the terms of restoring ties on November 10, the British Government specifically undertook to stay out of Iranian affairs on account of its past record of interference and the BBC moves are seen as putting a future exchange of ambassadors in jeopardy and diminishing U.K. hopes of enhancing its trading relations.

The BBC, in its 5-minute publicity interview, uncannily allowed the eldest son of the deposed shah, Reza Pahlavi to call on all so-called nationalist opposition forces to be prepared for conflict "by arms" despite Margaret Thatcher's well-known views on giving a platform to terrorist pursuits.

In her determination not to give publicity to groups intent on armed struggles, the British prime minister, just before the Iranian agreement, imposed a comprehensive ban on all broadcasts with seven paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland and on the Sinn Fein political party that has sympathies with the I.R.A.

Since then several countries have made formal protests to the government over what seemed like pure humbug, by imposing censorship on groups it considers as terrorists but selectively allowing the BBC to promote armed opposition groups in other countries.

FRG's Genscher Interviewed at End of Visit

LD0112135088 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] FRG foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, currently on a state visit to Tehran at the head of an economic, cultural, and political delegation, left this country last night and was seen off by Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr Velayati. During his visit, Mr Genscher met with the president, the Majles speaker, and the premier and also the foreign minister of the country, discussing ways to broaden the mutual ties between the two countries. While leaving Tehran, the West German foreign minister took part in an interview with our correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin Genscher recording] At the conclusion of our conversations, I would like to state that we had very useful and fruitful discussions, which we conducted in a spirit of openness and serious-mindedness. We perceive the results which we achieved during these conversations as positive. It is our common intent to develop further and to improve bilateral relations between our two countries both as regards the political dialogue, economic cooperation, and cultural cooperation. It was in this connection a particularly important event that we were able to sign a cultural agreement on the occasion of my visit here.

We also discussed international issues; and in this connection, I repeated the view taken by the government of the FRG that the Security Council Resolution 598 should be fully implemented. We are going to encourage the secretary general of the UN, who is already now playing an active role in this field, to make efforts to ensure the full and complete implementation of this resolution. The FRG is interested in that in this region stability should be established and ensured, because this is a region which is also of great importance in the field of international relations.

We also discussed a number of other important issues in a spirit of frankness and in great detail. I had the pleasure of inviting the foreign minister to come to the FRG on an official visit and the foreign minister accepted the invitation. The date will still have to be fixed. And let me in conclusion express my appreciation and my gratitude for the hospitality that was extended to us on this occasion. [end recording]

Velayati Invited to Chemical Warfare Conference

LD0112220688 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—France officially invited the Islamic Republic of Iran to take part in a conference on chemical disarmament to be held in Paris January 7-11, 1989.

The invitation was extended to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by his French counterpart Roland Dumas' special envoy Claude Arno here today. Arno submitted Dumas' written message to Velayati requesting Iran's participation in the conference.

Arno said at the meeting that the conference will place emphasis on the need for observing the 1925 Geneva Protocol which bans deployment of chemical weapons.

In response, Velayati thanking for the invitation expressed hope that the conference would devise practical measures for preventing production, storage, purchase, sale and deployment of the lethal weapons.

The foreign minister expressed regret over silence of world political societies towards Baghdad's repeated deployment of chemical against both Iran and its own Kurdish population. "We wish humanitarian issues would never be sacrificed for political considerations", Velayati added.

He expressed hope the conference would be a turning point for serious measures against any country which uses chemical weapons.

UN Report on Human Rights Violations 'Dismissed'

LD0112222988 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. yesterday dismissed as "unjust" a U.N. commission's resolution accusing Iran of human rights violations.

The resolution in no way tallies with the principal foundations of human rights, said Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, noting that the alleged violations in Iran as mentioned by the U.N. report were mainly based on lies spread by a Baghdad based terrorist grouplet.

He criticized the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal for initiating the biased resolution passed by the U.N. General Assembly's 3rd commission, citing political ill-intentions as motives behind.

Mahallati, regretting that the human rights issue is being misused by certain countries who harbour political ill-will, called on the U.N. to pay attention to real human rights issues around the globe free of illegitimate political ambitions.

He pointed out that countries backing the resolution are the same ones which not only remained silent towards Baghdad's toxic genocide in Iraqi Kurdistan but also opposed a resolution against the regime's inhuman acts.

Aviation Head Departs for Airbus Downing Meeting
LD2911185188 Tehran IRNA in English
1840 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 29, IRNA—Director General of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization Mohammad Javad Rana'i-Far left here for Montreal, Canada, to take part in the meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The meeting will be held on 3 December to discuss a report by an ICAO fact-finding team on the downing of the Iran Air Airbus A-300 by the US Navy.

The plane with 290 passengers aboard was downed by two missiles fired from USS Vincennes in the Persian Gulf on 3 July. It was en route from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy.

The ICAO team visited Tehran, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Dubayy and the USS Vincennes to collect data on the incident.

RESALAT Editorial on New U.S 'Plots'
NC0212103188 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
21 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "The United States and Its Fresh Plot"]

[Text] In recent years, the issue of the establishment of ties between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently been one of the most sensitive and controversial issues at the international level. The mortification felt by the United States as a result of the dispatch of McFarlane to Iran was so deep and painful that the White House will never be able to forget it. At that time, following the exposure of the scandal, an enormous crisis engulfed the ruling Washington echelons, the effects of which continue to be felt even now for George Bush, that country's president-elect.

Whether it was during the Irangate affair or in its aftermath, the U.S. objective has constantly been to create a crisis for the Islamic Republic of Iran and to destabilize the country by proposing that ties between the two countries be established. The hope with regard to this objective is to drive a wedge between the Iranian people and officials by dividing them into those who favor and those who oppose such a move, and thus create polarization which will result in internecine strife.

The United States has stressed, in recent months, that it is desirous of direct, not indirect contacts with Iran. This was followed by Carter's letter to Imam Khomeyni, which to aimed convey the impression that such ties already have been initiated! It therefore appears that the general U.S. aim is to use certain "pressure groups" to plant doubts so that the forces of the revolution become gripped with confusion and ambiguity, and the United States will be able to avenge McFarlane's humiliation.

The timely and swift response by the leader of the revolution to Carter's arcane act, which definitely had been coordinated with the U.S. intelligence and security organizations, neutralized yet another of the "arch-Satan's" plots. It also confirmed the impossibility of forging ties with the United States so long as that country assumes the posture of "power" and "deceit." The deep hostility persists, and the United States does not wish to acknowledge the reality of the Islamic revolution.

We should formulate our foreign policy in such a manner in the present circumstances so that there is no need for any relatons with the United States. However, efforts must continue to recover Iran's frozen assets in the United States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's calculated ties with the Soviet Union and Europe could dispense with the need to establish any ties with the United States. It is most degrading for the United States that, at a time when it has ties and exchanges with all the countries of the world and even meets with its rival superpower several times a year, it is deprived of diplomatic ties with Iran. Presumably, the Americans are in great need of such ties but do not wish to come "down to earth" from their "seat in the sky". They wish to satiate their needs and avarice through the instruments of "propaganda" and "diplomacy." At present, the instruments of domination in the world are vastly different from what they were before.

In the present circumstances, the use of "force" and a "military lever" are quite ineffective. Colonialism today endeavors to topple regimes by means of the weapon of propaganda and the lever of diplomacy, and to replace them with servile pawns to run the affairs of those countries. It is not without reason that the potentially explosive regions of the world are moving toward a mitigation of tension; countries which have been subjected to military occupation are throwing off foreign domination; and all the nations that have been under the rule of military dictators are metamorphosing into democracies!

The superpowers have not ended their domination of nations; they have merely resorted to new instruments of domination—instruments by means of which they can bend the minds of nations. We should maintain our vigilance against the U.S. instruments of domination and prove to those countries which claim to be world leaders that we are able to resist them.

The leader of the revolution has acquitted himself remarkably and with subtlety. It is now the obligation of the officials of the administration not to fall prey to the U.S. propagandistic ploys, and to warn the Islamic Republic of the hazards of such dependence. If the enemy merely changes his stripes and does not terminate his hostility, he is still an enemy, even if his enmity takes the form of cultural or propagandistic tactics, or political or military ones.

Commentary Views POW Exchange Obstacles
LD0112142188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1046 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Unattributed political commentary: "The Red Cross and the Removal of Obstacles in the Exchange of POW's"]

[Text] Yesterday our minister of foreign affairs wrote a letter addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross director concerning those sick and injured POW's who for some reason have not been repatriated.

The letter of the minister of foreign affairs to the International Committee of the Red Cross director has been sent at a time when, since last Sunday [27 November], the exchange of sick and injured POW's has come to a halt.

Following the agreement between the two countries to exchange their sick and injured POW's according to a timetable drawn up by the Red Cross, it was agreed that in each phase 41 sick Iranian POW's and 115 Iraqi POW's would be repatriated, provided they are confirmed sick and disabled by the joint medical committee of the Red Cross and that they do not request asylum.

In the wake of the first exchange of sick and injured POW's, which took place last Thursday [24 November], 27 Iraqi POW's were not confirmed by examination of the medical committee. Meanwhile, 21 other sick and disabled POW's requested asylum. At a result, only 52 of the injured and disabled Iraqi POW's left Tehran for Baghdad.

The Islamic Republic of Iran at that time supplied the necessary information on this point to the International Red Cross team. Yet, on the same day, the Baghdad regime, in an act of obstructionism contrary to the accord reached with the International Red Cross, prevented the release of 22 disabled Iranian POW's whose release had been confirmed by the Red Cross; this was done by Iraq without any reason or explanation. Also, in subsequent POW exchanges, Iraq prevented the release of a number of other Iranian POW's. As a result, during three rounds of POW exchange, the Iraqi regime refused to repatriate 67 disabled Iranian POW's.

Following this obstructionism by the Iraqi regime, Iran made the new round of repatriation of sick and disabled POW's of the two sides conditional on the repatriation of 67 disabled Iranian POW's who, at present, continue to be imprisoned by the Baghdad regime for no acceptable reason.

The Iraqi regime alleges that it has refrained from repatriating disabled Iranian POW's because of the noninclination of sick and disabled Iraqi POW's to return home. However, POW's desiring political asylum can make an application to do so according to the Geneva Convention and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Thus, the Iraqi regime's resorting to such pretexts lacks any kind of legal and acceptable basis; they are in blatant violation of the accord reached with the Red Cross.

Therefore, it is necessary for the International Committee of the Red Cross to recognize its responsibility and pay attention to the Baghdad's regime's violation of the accord reached in Geneva. Having done so the International Committee of the Red Cross must follow up Iran's request for the repatriation of those sick and injured Iranian POW's who are still held in captivity; it must also demand that the Iraqi regime show its goodwill by providing for the speedy release of the said POW's.

Naval Maneuvers Codenamed 'Jowshan-1' End
LD0112141588 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Bushehr, Dec. 1, IRNA—The last stage of operation 'Jowshan-1' in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf was watched by Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, Thursday.

The fleet including missile frigates in full battle array sailed past a saluting Malekzadagan standing on the deck of the command warship, while warplanes and naval helicopters hovered overhead.

A field commander told IRNA the exercises proves the powerful presence of the Islamic Republic Navy in the Persian Gulf. The power and combat prowess of the Navy has been greatly enhanced, he added.

Named after frigate 'Jowshan' the first Iranian warship to sink an Iraqi gunboat and the first to engage the intruding U.S. fleet in the region, the maneuvers were designed to test the efficiency of Iran's 2nd maritime units.

The 4-day exercises in which frigates and helicopters took part, saw mock combats, troop landings, minesweeping and targetting of 'intruding' aircraft, while frogmen displayed their undersea skills in setting off depth-charges.

'Tondar-9' Automatic Rifles Mass Produced
LD2911182688 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Mass production of Iranian-made "Tondar-9" automatic rifles began today with the inauguration of a new unit at the defence industry organization.

Tondar from which the English word thunder is derived has been tested and proven with a life span several-times longer that the classic German "G-3" rifle, said a defence official.

The G-3 has been the main rifle of the Iranian Army for some two decades. After the war and the capture of tens of thousands of kalashnikov rifles from Iraqi troops, the Russian rifles were used mainly by the Islamic Revolution's Guards and the Basij.

"It is a matter of pride" said Army Commander Brig-Gen Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di who inaugurated the new Tondar unit.

Tudeh Party Issues Statement on Executions

LD0112182888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 1 Dec 88

["Statement" by the Tudeh Party Central Committee; place not given—recorded]

[Text] New, sinister crimes are taking place in the Islamic Republic's jails. Dear compatriots and all humanists! We extend the hand of help toward you. We urge you to voice your anger and fury against the hellish crimes carried out inside the regime's jails. Horrifying news has come out of the regime's prisons. In recent years the number of executed of prisoners has never been so large. The number of those executed in various prisons exceeds hundreds. In recent days the families of political prisoners, their sympathizers and friends, have told us of the political execution of large numbers of prisoners, including captured Tudeh Party members.

Among our Tudeh Party comrades who were recently executed and their bodies handed over to their families, are the following:

Comrade Manuchehr (?Behdasht), the secretary and member of the Executive Council of the Tudeh Party Central Committee, and concessionaire [saheb emtiaz] of the NAMEH-YE MARDOM newspaper;

Comrade Esma'il Zolqadr, member of the Political Council of the Tudeh Party Central Committee; Comrade Dr Ahmad Danesh-Shari'atpanahi, member of the Tudeh Party Central Committee;

Comrade Raf'at Mohammadzadeh-Akhgar, member of the Tudeh Party Central Committee;

Comrade Saber Mohammadzadeh, member of the Tudeh Party Central Committee;

Comrade Asef (?Razmdideh), member of the Tudeh Party Central Committee;

Comrade Fariborz (?Salehi), adviser to the Tudeh Party Central Committee;

Comrade Mohsen Bigdeli, a Tudeh officer who had been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment;

Comrade Mehrdad Farjad-Azad, a distinguished party member;

Comrade Hoseyn (?Qalafar), advising member of the Central Committee;

Comrade Mehdi (?Afsari-Haj) member of Tehran's [word indistinct] committee, who had previously been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment;

Comrade Hasan Jalali, a Tudeh Party manual worker and member of the managing committee of the Council for Solidarity for Workers' Trade Unions in Tehran and (?provinces);

Comrade [name indistinct], member of the party;

Comrade Mohammad Reza Raja'i-Far, member of the party.

We are still not fully informed about the true dimensions of the crimes taking place behind prison walls. In the news we have heard the general emphasis is on the point that the party's cadres have mostly faced firing squads, and the number of those executed exceeds by far the number we have mentioned. According to information that has reached us from within Iran, mass executions are continuing. If an international attempt to save the lives of political prisoners is not made, the regime will become more daring in continuing its atrocities.

Those families who have long been deprived of the right to visit their imprisoned loved ones are constantly told ambiguously that, God willing, the prisoners are still alive and you will see them. Those who on the rare occasion succeed in visiting their relatives, come out with horrifying news. A profound fear and worry has overshadowed the lives of prisoners' families. Every moment they expect to receive bad news. There are rumors circulating that the regime seeks to get rid of all political prisoners. On that basis it is said that in Hamadan prison all the political prisoners face the firing squad. Among those executed are many members of Iran's various political organizations, including members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and supporters of Mehdi Hashemi—some of whom were clerics.

The regime of the Islamic Republic has not released any statistics on the number of executed, except some patent figures. No names or details about trials—carried out by religious courts—have been publicized. Religious judges and the Islamic courts who in their brutality make fascism seem humane mostly order the execution of prisoners during the periods in which they grant no visiting rights to the prisoners and their families. [passage indistinct]

The main point is that the regime of the vice regency of the juriconsult, who suffered defeat in the war and becomes more unstable every day, intends to eradicate the staunch political opposition in phases. In this way, the regime intends to take revenge on the people.

The Tudeh Party of Iran asks the United Nations, the human rights committee, Amnesty International, and all other humane forces in the world to take prompt action to save the lives of thousands of people whose only crime is having a different ideology. Once again we urge all the country's political parties and organizations to struggle to save the lives of political prisoners. They should consider this task their most important and vital priority.

We stress the necessity of united struggle by all political forces. It is true they may hold different opinions on political affairs, but all political forces agree on the issue of saving political prisoners. In the same way, the political prisoners themselves have put their political differences aside and understand the necessity of united action in the face of a common enemy. [passage indistinct]

The duty of all party sympathizers who live abroad is a difficult and responsible one. Wherever they are, they must take the initiative, organize demonstrations, and inform the public about the regime's atrocities inside prisons. They must inform all newspapers and radio and television stations. [passage indistinct]

Dear compatriots! Please remember that the key to the release of political prisoners is in your hands. Your movement for saving the lives of political prisoners, these pioneers of the revolution who defend the rights of toilers, is very important. Arise!

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, November-December 1988

Pakistan

President Addresses Nation, Names Bhutto Premier

BK0112185088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1435 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Address by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan naming Benazir Bhutto new prime minister on 1 December; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. As Muslims our faith holds that in the whole universe, God has supreme authority. Under this supreme authority, being the envoy of God, man has been bestowed with the power of authority on earth in the form a sacred endowment. The authority of our Constitution also is in conformity with this faith. The preface to the Constitution states in clear terms that the people will exercise this sacred endowment of the power of authority through their elected representatives.

The people have chosen their representatives, and thus the time to fulfill this responsibility has now come to me. It has been said in the Holy Koran thus: [Koranic verses omitted]. Doubtlessly, God commands them to hand over the endowments to the owners. For me, today is the day to hand over a sacred endowment to its rightful owner. I thank God I have the fortune to retire from the responsibility bestowed by Him and the responsibility entrusted by the Constitution.

You have held general elections on 16 and 19 November as a prudent nation, using the best strategy and in a peaceful manner, and have reached the point from where the systematic journey of a true democracy begins. The political wisdom, sense of national responsibility, and exercise of democratic rights exhibited by you in the delicate stage of elections have been appreciated by the world.

From your extremely responsible mode of operation, my confidence has been strengthened that in political life—despite this step of practical experiment of democracy—our nation is not inferior to anyone in democracy nor behind anyone in fulfilling the practical requirements. This is the indication of the days of bright future in Pakistan, which cannot be ignored even by our arch-rival, whatever its prejudice toward us.

When I assured you of holding timely elections, I did not plan to simply go to the polling station, stamp the papers, and participate in a ritualistic act. Rather, I had in mind a separate national process, which would assure the participation of the people in the business of the state. The people should decide on their next leaders according to their preferences and aspirations, and lay the foundation for a healthy tradition, so that in the future the inclination to try new experiments should not be necessary on the occasion of the transition of power.

According to recognized principles, the peaceful transfer of power should be part of our political system. Although I had two objectives before me—holding the general elections and later taking the election process to its logical end in the transfer of power—I had decided to be guided only by the country's Constitution. You have witnessed that I have (?fully) implemented this decision.

As I have said earlier, there is only one way to make the results of the elections acceptable to the whole nation and that was not only to hold the elections in a free and fair manner, but also to hold them in a free and impartial nature. For this objective, I welcomed every proper suggestion and took all the necessary steps and precautions. I gave all the legal and (?administrative) powers to the Election Commission. Along with this, the cooperation of the whole administrative machinery was assured and the task of supervising the elections was handed over to the judicial officials. Effective arrangements were

made with the dedicated participation of the Armed Forces for the restoration of peace, and arrangements were made to (?avoid) fraud in the elections and undue influence on the results.

Thank God that with your cooperation and that of the political (?parties), all our efforts bore fruit. The national election was so successful that even foreign observers described it as the most free and peaceful party-based election in the history of Pakistan. It is a matter of extreme happiness and satisfaction to me and to you: to me, because I was able to fulfill my pledge to the nation, and to you, because now the responsibilities of administration are with the people who you have elected. It is not the election of any individual and his [words indistinct]. The holding of the elections was merely a stage of our political timeframe.

It was a stage that was not meant to (?realize) the objective, but only the means to achieve the lofty objective. And that lofty objective was to establish the government of the people, for the people, and by the people. This objective is called democracy, and this objective I have always considered to be my goal. Today, by the grace of God, we are only one step away from that goal, and that step is the implementation of the verdict reached by the nation on 16 and 19 November.

You may remember that from my first address on 17 August until now, I have frequently said that after the elections, during the transfer of power, there would be no deviation from the constitutional requirements. Soon after the elections [words indistinct due to break in transmission]. I have repeated the same thing during the informal session of the federal elections: that there will never be any unnecessary delay in transferring power to the people's representatives. By all means, in this matter we would not have (?ignored) the constitutional requirements. It was my goal to fully adhere to the Constitution of the country. There was, however, the possibility of differences of opinion in the interpretation of the articles of the Constitution, but I would not commit the mistake of putting the constitutional requirements aside in such a vital issue as the transfer of power.

You are aware that according to the Constitution, until March 1990, the president has the right to nominate a member of the National Assembly as prime minister, who, in his opinion will get the support of the majority of the Assembly. This right will not remain with the president after March 1990. Prior to this date, this is a constitutional requirement, and it is essential that it be fulfilled. If the (?aspects) of this requirement are studied, two things come to light: first, that the election of all the members of the National Assembly be completed, and second, that the president reach a decision, with witnesses, on a National Assembly member who enjoys the confidence of the majority of the Assembly. Constitutionalily would not have been met without fulfilling these two requirements.

Without wasting a day, I started meeting with leaders of political parties for this purpose; this required some time. Unfortunately, this period was described as a deliberate delay and some elements started a misleading campaign of baseless speculations, rather allegations. These elements considered their concept of democracy (?best) for the entire world, and never bothered to study the Pakistan Constitution. The echo of this delay was bound to be heard inside the country as well. I regretted it, but was not surprised. I understand that some past experiences have created mistrust among the people and it has become difficult for the common man to trust any pledge, however sincere it may be.

However, as soon as I felt that the process of discussions with political leaders, the swearing in of Assembly members, and the election to reserve women's seats could be completed before the anticipated time, I decided to revise the announced schedule so that the new prime minister could be appointed immediately after fulfilling the constitutional requirements. With the grace of God, today I find myself able to announce the new prime minister of the country in accordance with my constitutional responsibility.

In the election, no single party or alliance of parties could achieve a decisive majority, but the Pakistan People's Party emerged with the most support. In second place was the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad. As no single party gained an absolute majority, some senior statesmen and [word indistinct] proposed that a broad-based coalition government be formed. I understand that this proposal was in the greater national interest. However, this was not to be decided by me but by the leader of the house, and only he could decide on this issue.

Leaders of both the PPP and the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad during their meetings with me claimed that their parties had the support of so many smaller parties and independents that they could form a government. However, on the basis of the impression I formed from my meetings with leaders of various parties and after studying their priorities and inclinations, as well as the information I gathered from my own sources, I have reached the conclusion that the PPP is more likely to get a vote of confidence from the majority of the [National] Assembly.

Also, the people, by electing more PPP candidates compared with all other parties at the national level, have expressed comparatively greater confidence in this party and its leaders. For this reason, according to the constitutional powers and in favor of democratic traditions, I nominate the cochairperson of the PPP, Ms Benazir Bhutto, as prime minister of Pakistan, and invite her to form the government. As stated in the Constitution, she must receive a vote of confidence from the house [National Assembly] within 60 days.

Here I am deeply gratified to announce that as a result of the conclusion of the democratic process, the government has decided with immediate effect to lift the state of emergency from the country and dissolve the Emergency Council [formed after Ziaul Haq's death] so that the new prime minister can assume her responsbilities in an entirely democratic atmosphere. Today also, I have received resignations from all federal ministers, ministers of state, and presidential advisers which will become effective tomorrow, that is at midnight tonight [1900 GMT]. With this, the caretaker cabinet will stand dissolved.

I am extremely grateful to the cabinet colleagues for their guidance and cooperation.

Ms Benazir Bhutto is a young, educated, cultured, talented, and capable woman. She possesses excellent leadership qualities. She is fired with an admirable spirit of love for the country and service to the people. Above all, she is the choice of the people and nationally elected. I heartily congratulate her on being nominated to Pakistan's highest administrative post, and pray for her success. I hope that her leadership will prove the harbinger of the nation's greatness and status.

I have fulfilled the constitutional obligation of the president by nominating the prime minister at the center. The new prime minister will take the oath of office at a noble ceremony. This auspicious occasion will take place on Friday [2 December]. On the same day, the provincial assemblies will also appoint chief ministers in their respective sessions and thus democratic governments will be ushered in, simultaneously, at the federal level and in the four provinces.

This schedule of the assemblies at the federal and provincial levels was determined so that no party gets precedence or time for political (?alliances) against others; every side has an equal opportunity to demonstrate its strength within the house in a democratic manner.

With the appointment of the prime minister at the center and chief ministers in the provinces, the country will be able to move forward the political process after a long time as a result of the party-based elections. Prosperity, supremacy of law, and success in the external world await the nation.

On this occasion I would like to make a few special requests. Although in a democracy national progress becomes the responsibility of a particular party, its completion remains the joint obligation of the entire nation. It is true that the party in power has a great responsibility; but at the same time the opposition cannot be absolved of responsibility. People expect both to play their respective constitutional roles in national construction, progress, and the people's well-being and welfare according to their best capabilities. This is possible only when confrontation is avoided and an attitude of mutual accommodation is adopted.

There might be a difference of opinion between the two sides, but in spite of these differences there should be no lack of dedication to achieve national objectives. Some national objectives are such that there is no room for differences. For example, who can question the fact that this country was established in the name of Islam and its existence depends on unconditional links with Islam?

Similarly, conflicting (?views) about the country's stability and security cannot even be imagined. No patriot can disagree that cordial relations between one province and another and between each province and the center is indispensable for the health of the federation. As far as other matters are concerned, when I look toward the charters of various parties, I do not find any such contradictions that come in the way of mutual cooperation and making them act as equal partners.

Even if programs and courses of action of political parties are found opposing, it is not difficult to maintain their separate identities and at the same time march hand in hand in an atmosphere of Islamic brotherhood on the path leading toward a common goal. This can definitely be done. The only need is of determination, encouragement, and breaking false barriers of (?self-pride). I wish and hope that the initiative in this matter is taken from both sides, the ruling party and the opposition.

The nation justifiably expects the opposition will distance itself from the wrong tradition of opposition for its own sake, and that its course of action will reflect constructive thinking and a positive outlook. It will fully cooperate with the new government by forgetting the election animosity and lending a hand to it in discharging those great responsibilities which the people have reposed on it.

On the other side, it is obligatory for the ruling party to exhibit tolerance and magnanimity and give the opposition the status and honor it deserves. It should not forget that in a functioning democracy the power can be switched from the ruling bench to the opposition bench at any time. If they form the ruling party at present, then the future could belong to others. If our political parties heartily accept this possible situation, then it can be hoped that peaceful and organized transfer of power will become such a tradition in our country that it will not be easy for anybody to break it, and the nation will not have to pass through the sufferings with the uncertainty as to which way the camel will turn after the failure of a government.

The ruling party should also save itself from a moral fall by all possible means. Because of its different outlook from the outgoing government, it should put on the shelf all inherited things, however good and tested. It is definitely the right of the party in power to review the country's policies and programs according to its political

acumen. However, in state affairs continuity and maintainance lead toward stability, and revocation of past work without giving any thought to it causes chaos, mistrust, and uncertainty.

Dear countrymen, here I will make you witness to one more request to the members elected to the house. In a parliamentary democracy party loyalty leads toward stability. Changing party loyalty for temporary expediencies and personal interests eats away the roots of democracy and at the same time tramples the sanctity of the house. Hence, it is obligatory for members of each party to discharge their right of party affiliation without compromising on principles. Loyalty is the only condition of stability in which lies the secret of their success and their fountainhead of power.

I pray that [words indistinct] newly elected members of the National Assembly are able to play their role in strengthening the roots of democracy in Pakistan, that the new government under the able leadership of Ms Benazir Bhutto fully meets the expectations of the people, and that the brightness caused by the dawning of democracy in the dear motherland will always light up Pakistan. I also pray to Almighty God that Pakistan emerges into a united Islamic democratic country, fully capable of overcoming internal issues and invincibly strong in the face of external threats, and that its citizens are crowned with successes in all fields of life. May God help and support us. Long live Pakistan.

Bhutto Sworn In

BK0212111488 [Editorial Report] Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu at 1025 GMT on 2 December begins a live relay of the ceremony being held at the Presidency in Islamabad during which Ms Benazir Bhutto is to be sworn in as the prime minister of Pakistan.

The announcer says President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will administer the oath of office to Benazir Bhutto. The announcer says that present at the ceremony are "the chief justice of Pakistan; members of the judiciary; the chairman of the joint chief of staff committee and chiefs of Pakistan's Army, Navy, and Air Force; the acting chairman of the Senate, senators, and elected members of the new National Assembly; diplomatic representatives; Bhutto family members, and prominent members of the Pakistan People's Party."

Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Benazir Bhutto arrive at 1030 GMT, following which the Pakistani national anthem is played. Recitation from the Koran then follows.

At 1036 GMT, Ghulam Ishaq Khan administers the oath of office of the prime minister of Pakistan to Benazir Bhutto in Urdu.

The announcer then says: "The entire audience bursts into loud applause at the end of the oath taking. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sign the oath documents and once again about 700 high dignitaries present here give them loud applause. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan also congratulates Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto." Live coverage of the ceremony ends at 1043 GMT.

President Dissolves Cabinet

BK0212033788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] According to an official announcement issued in Rawalpindi, the president has dissolved the federal cabinet. This decision will be effective from forenoon today.

Bhutto's Party To Receive Ethnic Party Support

BK0212115588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] An accord has been reached between Pakistan People's Party and Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] in Karachi this afternoon. It was announced by the leader of the House in Sind Assembly, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, and Chairman MQM Mr Asif Ahmad Tariq at a joint press conference in Karachi. They said that both the parties will extend full cooperation to each other both at federal and provincial levels.

Sharif Sworn In; PPP Chief Ministers Named

BK0212114588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] was sworn in as the chief minister of Punjab at a ceremony at Governor's House in Lahore this afternoon. The oath was administered by the governor, Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi. The ceremony was attended by MPA's [members of provincial assembly] and senior officials.

Earlier, at a special session the Punjab Assembly decided that Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif commanded confidence of the majority of the members of the assembly for being invited by the governor to be the chief minister of the province. The decision to this effect was taken by the assembly after some members of IJI had moved a resolution before the House suggesting the name of Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for this purpose. The decision was taken by the assembly by show of hands and received 151 votes in favor.

A special session of the Sind Assembly this afternoon elected unanimously Qaim Ali Shah of Pakistan People's Party as the new chief minister of Sind.

The majority of the members of the NWFP Assembly at a special session in Peshawar this afternoon reposed confidence in Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao of Pakistan People's Party as chief minister of the province by show of hands.

2 Indian Diplomats Declared Persona Non Grata

BK0212024788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has declared two Indian diplomats, Bibi Sharma and Ramesh, as persona non grata and asked them to leave Pakistan within 24 hours. Bibi Sharma is the counselor at the Indian Consulate in Karachi and Ramesh is an official of the Indian Embassy in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has strongly condemned the highly regrettable incident in New Delhi that occurred on Wednesday in which a senior diplomat of the Pakistani Embassy, Brigadier Z.I. Abbasi, and his assistant were attacked and detained illegally for some time.

The spokesman said that the Indian ambassador to Pakistan was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and a strong protest was lodged with him. The ambassador was also informed that the Pakistani Government holds the Government of India responsible for the inappropriate treatment to two officials of the Pakistani Embassy and demands an immediate investigation into it and punishment of those involved.

Sri Lanka

4 Killed, 'Over 100' Wounded in Campaign Shooting

BK0212060288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 2 (AFP)—A Marxist party Friday accused government troops of being inactive during an assassination attempt on the party's presidential candidate in which four people were killed and over 100 wounded.

Gunmen opened fire and exploded bombs at a campaign meeting of Ossie Abeygoonasekara, 35, at Kadawatha town, just north of here, late Thursday killing four people including his body guard and party vice president. Mr Abeygoonesekara of the Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party (SLMP) was unhurt in the second attempt on his life in two weeks.

The Marxist Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP), a close ally of the SLMP, said both attacks were carried out by the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front). "Naturally, it is the work of the JVP, inspired, no doubt, by sections of the UNP (ruling United National Party). We were shocked and surprised by the inaction of government troops," NSSP leader Vasudeva Nanayakkara said.

Mr. Nanayakkara, who was on stage during the attack said gunmen drove towards the crowd firing automatic weapons, and charged that soldiers and police did nothing to stop the attackers' vehicle. "There were armoured personnel carriers and heavily armed soldiers guarding the meeting. But they were totally ineffective," Mr. Nanayakkara said, adding that the parties were considering asking the government to withdraw them. He said NSSP Secretary Vickramabahu Karrunaratne was among over 100 wounded in the attack.

Mr. Abeygoonesekara is one of three candidates contesting the December 19 balloting. The others are Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) nominee, Sirima Bandaranaike.

On November 17, suspected JVP men exploded bombs at the launch of Mr. Abeygoonesekara's campaign at Colombo, killing four people and wounding up to 40, including the party's General Secretary Y.P. de Silva.

The JVP is opposed to the presidential elections being held before a dissolution of Parliament. The group is carrying on a violent campaign to force the government's resignation.

The SLMP former leader, Vijaya Kumaratunga, was assassinated by suspected JVP gunmen in February. The JVP has accused the SLMP of being "traitors" and is suspected of killing several of its supporters.

The SLMP backs the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which JVP bitterly opposes. Under the peace plan which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, New Delhi has nearly 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east.

Jayewardene To Dissolve Parliament 20 Dec

BK0112120488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 1 (AFP)—President Junius Jayewardene has said he will dissolve Parliament on December 20, a day after presidential polls, a group of industrialists said Thursday [1 December] after talks with the 82-year-old leader.

A spokesman for the influential Chamber of Industries said a delegation met with Mr. Jayewardene and some of his senior ministers Wednesday in a bid to urge the government to ease current tension affecting the business community.

"Mr. Jayewardene categorically said no to dissolving pArliament before the (December 19) presidential election. But he said he will dissolve Parliament on December 20," the spokesman said.

Mr. Jayewardene's office was not immediately available for comment, but Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, who is the ruling party presidential candidate, has said Parliament would be dissolved after the election.

Anti-government Sinhalese militants are continuing a violent campaign in a bid to force the 11-year-old government of Mr. Jayewardene to step down before the presidential balloting.

Indian Envoy on Unilateral Abrogation of Pact
BK0212033988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, has said that unilateral abrogation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement by Sri Lanka would have unpredictable consequences. Speaking to newsmen in Colombo yesterday, he said if a bilateral agreement between the two countries was abrogated by one side, the other side would also be free from all its obligations under the agreement. Mr Dixit said it is within the rights of the next president to abrogate an accord signed by his predecessor. He added that he personally apprised the two presidential candidates—Mr Premadasa and Mrs Bandaranaike—of the possible implications.

Daily Analyzes Gorbachev-Gandhi Talks in Delhi
BK0112140388 Colombo SUN in English 22 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Indo-Soviet Talks"]

[Text] The Soviet supremo Mikhail Gorbachev left India after a forty eight hour crucial visit evidently reassuring Premier Rajiv Gandhi of his country's undivided support for the current Indian policy of gaining regional supremacy in South Asia.

According to reports the Soviet leader was able to dispel fears in India that Moscow had begun to warm itself towards China while cooling its diplomatic ardour towards New Delhi.

On the contrary the Soviet and Indian leaders might have even chalked up a common perspective for a China policy.

Gandhi is scheduled to visit Beijing next month while Gorbachev will do so in a few months' time, thus thawing the ice that exists in their respective relationships.

Yet for obvious reasons India will not be too pleased about a very cordial Sino-Soviet link up: At least not until the two Asian giants resolve some of their own contentious issues including their border dispute.

Gorbachev and Gandhi according to reports reiterated their common stand on the Indian Ocean proposals and an early end to the Afghan crisis.

In the joint communique they underlined their opposition to foreign military bases in alien territory. This would invariably help India enjoy naval supremacy of the Indian Ocean region as she continues to beef up her navy which also includes nuclear-powered submarines provided by the Soviets.

During his Delhi tour Gorbachev blamed the US and Pakistan for stalling the Afghan accords and sought Indian help in getting the UN to revitalise the peace process.

As long as the Afghan crisis remains unresolved, peace and stability will hardly return to the subcontinent.

Hopefully the new Indo-Soviet diplomatic thrust will have an impact in this respect when Gorbachev meets President Ronald Reagan and President-Elect George Bush next month.

The upcoming summits in Beijing by Indian and Soviet leaders respectively would also be significant in resolving the Afghan debacle. For China wields considerable influence over Pakistan and the mujahidin rebels. India can provide better Soviet responses to the Geneva accords.